

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY *of*

JAPANESE CINEMA



JASPER SHARP

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Historical Dictionary of Japanese Cinema

Jasper Sharp



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For Thorin

This volume is dedicated to all who
lost their lives or were affected by the
Tôhoku Earthquake and Tsunami of 11 March 2011.

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Editor's Foreword

Japanese cinema is deceptively familiar to most of us. We know some of the outstanding directors and actors, at least those who have become popular in the West. Many of us have marveled at the technical prowess of one or more *anime*. We, as children or with our children, have gaped at Godzilla and other monsters, thrilled to *yakuza* and swordplay films, and shivered through some of the J-Horror, and without our children, may even have succumbed to pink films and Roman Porno. If asked, many of us would put the *Seven Samurai* and *Rashomon* on any list of all-time best. But there is so much more that we are less familiar with, including the early pioneering works, documentaries, many of the period pieces, comedy and household dramas, films on feminism or minorities, and certainly the production of war films before and during the Pacific War. The studio names are familiar, but not their genesis (and sometimes disappearance). And we do not really know the producers and actors of popular Japanese fare that is rarely seen abroad. So this volume has the double advantage of telling us more about the things we are familiar with, but especially filling in the huge gaps regarding less known directors, actors, and other film personnel; studios; and more typically Japanese genres.

This *Historical Dictionary of Japanese Cinema* goes about its work like others in the series. A good place to start in this case is with the chronology, which stretches further back than may be expected, indeed to the very earliest days of cinema per se, and continues on for well over a century full of important cinematic events, but is also embedded in the broader political world that is referenced in many films. The list of acronyms helps us in reading this and other texts. And the introduction provides the general context. But the bulk of the information comes in the dictionary section, with fairly extensive entries on leading directors and actors, major studios, some filmmaking techniques, assorted cinematic genres, significant historical periods, and several outstanding films. In this case, since Japanese is not a familiar language for nearly all foreigners, the glossary plays a special role in familiarizing us with the related terminology. In the appendixes, the lists of companies and awards, titles of films, and names of individuals give us the original Japanese for all of these. And the bibliography, an amazingly plentiful one, can direct us toward

further reading on topics that interest us particularly and also some we hardly realized existed.

As hinted above, it is hard to really know Japanese cinema without putting in a lot of effort, much more than most of us can manage, and also without knowing the Japanese language. Over the past decade or so, few have dug deeper than Jasper Sharp, who is a frequent visitor to Japan, having lived there for three years, and otherwise follows events closely from Great Britain, where he lives. During this time, he has written (with Tom Mes) *The Midnight Eye Guide to New Japanese Film* and more recently *Behind the Pink Curtain*. He has also contributed to several anthologies and journals, curated film programs and retrospectives, and served on the advisory board of the *Journal of Japanese & Korean Cinema*. Most important in many ways, along with Tom Mes, he cofounded and helps keep the Midnight Eye website brimming over with information. This historical dictionary is his biggest recent project and certainly a significant contribution to increasing our knowledge of what is, after all, the world's third biggest film industry, one that everyone should know more about, from the average cinemagoer to those who are fascinated by one facet or another.

Jon Woronoff

Preface

This book is aimed at researchers, students, teachers, and general readers as both an introduction to and overview of the long history of Japanese cinema. It aims to provide an entry point for those with little or no familiarity with the subject, while it is organized so that scholars in the field will also be able to use it to find specific information. For this reason, the introduction and the chronological timeline sections are quite detailed. In themselves, they should provide sufficient background to the length and breadth of Japanese cinema, pointing to specific information that can be found in more detail in the dictionary entries.

A single volume focusing on Japanese cinema can never hope to be exhaustive, owing to the long history and sheer scale of production the industry has enjoyed since the arrival of the medium. Japan not only possesses the oldest unbroken film history of a non-Western nation, but also one of the largest; in Asia it is outproduced only by India. As such, a degree of selectivity has been applied to what has been included in the entries section. The choices are weighted in favor of those names and films best known internationally, or that characterize and shed more light on specific eras or genres, while the bibliography aims to provide a thorough review of the research that has already been undertaken on this vast subject and suggest possible fruitful paths still to be followed.

No book would ever be possible without the support and patience of a whole host of people. Space constraints preclude me from listing every single one of my friends and family members who have assisted, encouraged, or simply put up with me over the years I've been working on this project, and I ask in advance for the forgiveness of those whose names I have neglected to mention here. My utmost love and gratitude of course goes to Michelle Thomas, who, while I have been laboring over these pages, has been preparing for me the greatest gift that anyone could ever give. It also goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without my parents, Ian and Erica Sharp, and I also say thanks to my brother Daniel, my cousin Bridget Simmons, and her partner, Ken Slow, for providing me with a space to sit and write for the brief period during this project when I had no other place to do so.

I would like to thank Richard Chatten and Alexander Jacoby for their early comments on the manuscript. To Alex, I wish to give a double thank-you in conjunction with all the other researchers, journalists, and curators active in the field of Japanese cinema whose work has informed these pages. Specifically, I would like to thank my partners at Midnight Eye; Tom Mes, without whose chance meeting in Holland so many years ago I might never have taken this obsession so far; Martin Mes, for laboring so diligently behind the scenes; as well as Nicholas Rucka, Jason Gray, Roger Macy, Michael Arnold, Dean Bowman, Cathy Munroe Hotes, Eija Niskanen, Don Brown, and all the many others who have contributed over the years. For their friendship and continuing assistance, as much as for their activities in Japanese cinema, I'd like to pay credit to Adam Torel, Alex Zahlten, Roland Domenig, Mark Schilling, Jim O' Rourke, David Desser, Karen Severns, Koichi Mori, Chris Magee, Junko Takekawa, Lucia Nagib, Jonathan Rayner, Aaron Gerow, and Mark Nornes; the latter two in particular for providing an invaluable forum for discussion and debate about the subject in the form of the KineJapan mailing list. The greatest of them all, to whom my most heartfelt thanks goes, is Donald Richie, the man who started it all.

Anyone who has published on Japanese cinema before will know about the problems associated with sourcing images. For this reason, I am particularly indebted to a number of people in the industry who have supplied me with the stills used in this book and have granted permission to use them without charge. With regards to this, I'd like to say an especially big thank-you to the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute, in particular Wachi Yukiko, whose assistance has gone far beyond the call of duty; Ando Momoko of Zero Films; Marie Iida and Kito Yukie of Entertainment Farm; Ono Seiko of Zakka Films; Watanabe Saki of 100 Meter Films; Yamashita Koyo of Image Forum; and Yasui Yoshio of the Planet Bibliotheque de Cinema in Osaka.

And finally, I would like to thank Jon Woronoff at Scarecrow Press for suggesting this project and for his enduring advice and patience while I worked on it.

As a footnote, it would be a grave oversight to neglect mention of the tragedy that has befallen Japan with the devastating Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami, which occurred on 11 March 2011 after the manuscript for this book was already submitted. The longer legacy of the disaster upon the nation's psyche, economy, and film industry has yet to be felt, but my heart goes out to all those affected by it.

Reader's Note

This book follows the same format as the other volumes in the Historical Dictionary series. In each dictionary entry, references to other entries are indicated in boldface type or at the end of the entry under *See also* OTHER ENTRY. Spelling is American English, except for rare cases of official names and titles for which the Japanese have explicitly used other forms, such as the organization Art Theatre Guild.

As the subject matter of this book not only presents the reader with a foreign language, but also a foreign writing system, some further explanation is necessary about how Japanese words are transcribed into the Roman alphabet. Transliteration of Japanese words follows the revised Hepburn romanization system, with the use of macrons to denote a long vowel sound (e.g., ô as in “boat” as opposed to o as in “hot”). To prevent confusion, I have used the international spellings for all place-names (e.g., Tokyo and Kyoto as opposed to Tôkyô and Kyôto). The terms “West” or “Western,” although contentious, are used to refer collectively to America and Europe.

Similarly, for film companies known outside of Japan, I have opted for the nonmacronized spelling (e.g., Toei rather than Tôei; Toho rather than Tôhô), but have used macrons for the majority of companies whose names are seldom written in English, such as Fukuhôdô, Shinkô Kinema, and Sôzôsha. Some companies that do not have individual entries in the dictionary are included in appendix A, along with their names as written in Japanese script. Companies, government agencies, institutions, or organizations referred to in the entries either by English names or abbreviations, followed by the Japanese-language version italicized in brackets, can also be found in this section.

With regard to the names of individual people, I have adhered to the Japanese practice of the family name first followed by the given name, a convention best explained by the example of the brothers Ishihara Shintarô and Ishihara Yujirô. Where individuals mentioned in the text do not have their own dictionary entries, they are listed with the Japanese characters of their names in the relevant section of appendix C (i.e., under “Directors,” “Performers,” or “Other Figures”). Transliteration of names follows the revised Hepburn system used elsewhere, except in the rare cases where the

individual is commonly known under an alternative spelling. For example, Edogawa Rampo should strictly be Edogawa Ranpo, and the *manga* artist Matsumoto Leiji should be Matsumoto Reiji, although published foreign translations of both these individuals' work almost exclusively use the former spellings. However, the alter ego of Kitano Takeshi is referred to in the text by the anglicized spelling Beat Takeshi (as opposed to Bîto Takeshi), as the name is borrowed from the English language and the actor-director is also well-known overseas under this screen name. Those individuals who have worked extensively overseas under English names, such as Henry Kotani, Thomas Kurihara, and Shirley Yamaguchi, are listed in the relevant appendixes in accordance with the Japanese name order: as Kotani Henry, Kurihara Thomas, and Yamaguchi Shirley. However, in the case of those individuals who have worked almost entirely within the Japanese industry but have opted to use anglicized names, for example the actor Shishido Jô (Joe Shishido) and the director Iida Jôji (George Iida), the Japanese names are given in the main text with their English variants listed as alternatives in the appendixes.

Japanese words such as *anime*, *chanbara*, *manga*, or *yakuza* that may be unfamiliar to the general reader appear italicized throughout text, unless they are in common usage in the English language or their meaning is commonly understood, such as in the cases of the words Kabuki or Samurai (note also that the words Butoh and Noh are spelled in the commonly used English form instead of in the macronized forms). Italicized Japanese terms, if they do not have their own dictionary entry, appear in the glossary, where the Japanese characters with which they are written are given alongside the definition. Names of film journals or books that occur in the main text are listed under "Selected Japanese Sources" in the bibliography.

Individual films are referred to within the text by their English titles, with the transliterated Japanese titles in brackets followed by the director and the year—for example, *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1952)—unless the information is included elsewhere in the entry. A full list of all films mentioned in the text is provided in appendix B, along with the original title in Japanese characters or kana. For the English-language titles I have drawn heavily from Alexander Jacoby's *A Critical Handbook of Japanese Film Directors: From the Silent Era to the Present Day* (2008), which has attempted to redress the problem of the rapidly proliferating number of English titles for the same works by listing the most commonly used or official overseas release titles for the film in question. I have referred to other sources for those films not included in Jacoby's book, where necessary using my own translations from the Japanese. It should be emphasized that many films produced in Japan have never been released overseas, and a number of those

that have, have been subjected to retitling by theatrical or video distributors. In such cases, alternative titles are given at the end of each entry in the list.

For anonymously directed works, a particular problem in Japanese cinema's early years, when directors were typically uncredited, the director's name is specifically given as unknown, as for example in the case of *Ghost Cat of Saga* (*Saga no bakeneko*, unknown, 1916). Where multiple directors are credited, their names are separated by forward slashes; for example, *Victory Song* (*Hisshōka*, Mizoguchi Kenji/Tasaka Tomotaka/Shimizu Hiroshi/Makino Masahiro, 1945). For original Japanese titles and release years, I have drawn heavily from the invaluable online resource, the *Japanese Movie Database* (JMDB), compiled from the records of the journal *Kinema Junpō*. Inevitably, there are going to be mistakes in any such source of information, and where I have detected them, I have corrected them. It is also worth mentioning that the JMDB has been infrequently updated since 2004.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATG	Art Theatre Guild
AV	Adult Video
<i>Bide-rin</i>	Nihon Ethics of Video Association (<i>Nihon Bideo Rinri Kyôkai</i> , also NEVA)
CERO	Computer Entertainment Rating Organization (<i>Tokutei hieiri katsudô hôjin konpyûta entâteinmento rêtingu kikô</i>)
CG	Computer Graphics
CM	Commercial Movie (i.e., advertisement film)
<i>Eiren</i>	Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan (<i>Nihon Eiga Seisakusha Renmei</i> , also MPPAJ)
<i>Eirin</i>	Commission for the Administration of the Motion Picture Code of Ethics (<i>Eirin Kanri Iinkai</i>)
FIPRESCI	International Federation of Film Critics (Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique)
JHV	Japan Home Video
JMDB	<i>Japanese Movie Database</i>
Kokkatsu	International Motion Picture Company (<i>Kokusai Katsuei Kabushikigaisha</i>)
MPPAJ	Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan (also EIREN).
NEVA	Nihon Ethics of Video Association (also BIDE-RIN)
NHK	Japan Broadcasting Association (<i>Nihon Hôsô Kôsai</i>)
<i>Nichidai Eiken</i>	Nihon University Film Study Club (<i>Nihon Daigaku Eiga Kenkyû-kai</i>)
Nichiei	Japan Film Company (<i>Nippon Eigasha</i>)
Nikkatsu	Japan Cinematograph Company (<i>Nippon Katsudô Shashin Kaisha</i>)
NTV	Nippon Television (<i>Nihon Terebi Hôsômo</i>)
OAV	Original Animated Video
OV	Original Video
OVA	Original Video Animation
P.C.L.	Photo Chemical Laboratories
PFF	PIA Film Festival

Prokino	Proletarian Film League of Japan (<i>Nihon Puroretaria Eiga Dômei</i>)
SCAP	Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers
SHV	Shochiku Home Video
TBS	Tokyo Broadcasting System
Teikine	Imperial Cinema Entertainment Company (<i>Teikoku Kinema Engei Kabushikigaisha</i>)
Tenkatsu	Natural Color Moving Picture Company (<i>Tennenshoku Katsudô Shashin Kabushikigaisha</i>)
UNIJAPAN	Japan Association for International Promotion of the Moving Image (<i>Zaidan Hôjin Nihon Eizô Kokusai Shinkô Kyôkai</i>)
YIDFF	Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival

Chronology

ca. 1450 Beginning of The Warring States period (*Sengoku jidai*), lasting approximately until the beginning of the 17th century.

1603 The beginning of the Edo period, also known as the Tokugawa period, which lasts until 1868. Throughout this era Japan is governed by the Tokugawa shogunate, officially established by Tokugawa Ieyasu, as an isolated, preindustrial country comprised of over 250 decentralized domains ruled by feudal lords known as *daimyō*.

1688 The Genroku period begins, a span of several years lasting until 1704, which marks the zenith of the Edo period in terms of economic stability, culture, and internal politics.

1853 The arrival of American Commodore Mathew Perry with his four “black ships” (*kurofune*) at Uraga Harbor, part of present-day Yokosuka, forces Japan to open up to the outside world after almost three centuries of self-imposed isolation and presages the restoration of the emperor system that begins the Meiji period.

1868 The Meiji period (1868), or Meiji Restoration, begins following the accession of Crown Prince Mutsuhito as the Emperor Meiji to the throne on 3 February 1867 at the age of 14. The period is marked by rapid industrialization in an attempt to make Japan a powerful nation-state in the same mold as those in Europe and America. The era lasts until 1912.

1894 **1 August:** Declaration of First Sino–Japanese War. The war is fought in Korea and Manchuria and ends with the defeat of Qing dynasty China, with the Treaty of Shimonoseki signed on 17 April 1895. Manchuria, Taiwan, the Pescadores Islands, and the Liaodong Peninsula are ceded to Japan “in perpetuity,” while Korea becomes autonomous from China and a protectorate of Japan, until it is annexed in 1910.

1895 28 December: In Paris, the Lumière brothers Auguste Marie Louis Nicolas and Louis Jean hold their first public screening of motion pictures filmed and projected to a paying audience, using their invention, the Cinématographe, at the Salon Indien du Grand Café. The date is generally considered as marking the birth of cinema.

1896 17 November: Crown Prince Yoshihito, later the Emperor Taishō, peers into Thomas Edison's hand-cranked Kinetoscope peep-show device on the first day of private showings, organized by its importer Takahashi Shinji. **25 November:** The Kinetoscope is introduced to the general public at Kobe's Shinkō Club, marking the first time recorded moving pictures are seen by a paying audience in Japan.

1897 9 January: Lumière representative François-Constant Girel arrives in Japan. He shoots a number of short films for his employers before leaving the country. **15 February:** The first exhibition of projected pictures for a paying audience is held at the Nanchi Embujō theater in Osaka, organized by the Japanese Lumière representative, Inahata Katsutarō, and marking what is regarded as the beginning of cinema in Japan. **6 March:** Arai Saburō holds the first public exhibition of motion pictures in Tokyo at the Kinki-kan theater in Kanda district using one of Thomas Edison's Vitascope projection devices, setting off an immediate rivalry between the two machines, which looks set to be won, when two days later, on 8 March, Yokota Einosuke gives an exhibition at Tokyo's Kawakami-za theater using a Lumière Cinématographe acquired from Inahata and then, on 9 March 1897, Kawaura Kenichi of the Yoshizawa Company holds his first Cinématographe show at the Minato-za theater in Yokohama.

1899 Shibata Tsunekichi films *Maple Viewing (Momijigari)*, a recording of a segment of the Kabuki play of the same name starring Ichikawa Danjurō and Onoe Kikugorō, and makes Japan's first dramatic film, *Armed Robber: Shimizu Sadakichi (Pisutoru gôtō Shimizu Sadakichi)*, featuring Yokohama Unpei as the real-life criminal whose actions are portrayed.

1900 March: The first domestically made projectors are sold by the Yoshizawa Company.

1902 The Yoshizawa Company opens a London office.

1903 June: Yokota Einosuke and his elder brother Masunosuke establish Japan's second motion pictures company, the Yokota Brothers Company (Yo-

kota Kyôdai Shôkai), later renamed the Yokota Company (*Yokota Shôkai*). **1 October:** The first purpose-built cinema in Japan, the Denki-kan in Tokyo's Asakusa district, is established by the Yoshizawa Company.

1904 10 February: The Russo–Japanese War begins over the control of Manchuria in China. Russia's defeat on 5 September 1905 is seen as a major turning point in Japan's history, the first instance of a non-Western country achieving victory over an established world power. The war provides much of the subject matter for the country's filmmakers, with camera units dispatched by both the Yoshizawa and Yokota companies. Yoshizawa's Kawaura Kenichi travels to the St. Louis International Exposition in the United States, where he exhibits a number of Japanese films, including footage of the war.

1906 4 July: Umeya Shôkichi founds the M. Pathé Company.

1908 The French film *The Reign of Louis XVI* (*La Règne de Louis XVI*, 1905) is banned by the Metropolitan Police Department for encouraging antimonarchist sentiments. **January:** The Yoshizawa Company constructs Japan's first dedicated studio for film production, the glass-enclosed Meguro Studio (*Meguro satsuei-jo*) in Tokyo. **August:** *The Battle at Honnoji Temple* (*Honnôji gassen*), the debut of the “Father of Japanese Film” Makino Shôzô, is released by the Yokota Company.

1909 Makino Shôzô directs the first film to feature the actor Onoe Matsunosuke, *Goban Tadanobu*. The four companies—M. Pathé, Yoshizawa, Yokota, and Fukuhôdô—combine their resources to form the trust the Greater Japan Film Machinery Manufacturing Company (*Dai-Nihon Firumu Kikai Seizô Kaisha*). **June:** The debut issue of Japan's first film magazine, *Katsudô shashinkai* (*Motion Picture World*), is published. The publication, which runs until 1912, is associated with the Yoshizawa Company and is made available to the patrons of the Denki-kan theater in Asakusa.

1910 Korea is formally annexed by Japan, with the country remaining occupied until the end of World War II. Makino Shôzô films the first installment of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*), starring Onoe Matsunosuke; a compilation of the surviving fragments of the series is thought to be the oldest Japanese fictional feature film in existence. Lieutenant Shirase Nobu's expedition to Antarctica is recorded on film by cameraman Taizumi Yasunao of M. Pathé, with the resulting visual document first screened publicly in 1912 as *Japanese Expedition to Antarctica* (*Nippon nankyoku tanken*).

1911 **July:** Yoshiyama Kokko begins writing reviews in the newspaper *Miyako Shinbun*, establishing a tradition of film criticism in Japan. **11 November:** The French film *Zigomar* (directed by Victorin-Hippolyte Jasset) opens in the Asakusa district of Tokyo, leading to a rush of Japanese imitations and a strong debate about cinema's role in influencing unlawful behavior, especially among children. **December:** The Yokohama Odeon (*Yokohama Odeon-za*), the first Japanese theater built exclusively to show foreign movies, opens (some sources cite the date as December 1910).

1912 The Taishô Era (1912–1926) begins with the death of the Meiji Emperor and the succession of Crown Prince Yoshihito on 30 July. The era is associated with a period of liberalism known as Taishô democracy. the Greater Japan Film Machinery Manufacturing Company trust merges into one company, the Japan Cinematograph Company (*Nippon katsudô shashin kaisha*), later abbreviated to Nikkatsu. The number of purpose-built movie houses in Tokyo rises to 44. **13 September:** The funeral of the Meiji Emperor leads General Nogi Maresuke and his wife to commit *seppuku*, which he had been forbidden from doing during the emperor's reign, due to his culpability for the unnecessary number of deaths in the lengthy siege of Port Arthur during the Russo–Japanese War. **20 October:** All films with “Zigomar” in the title, including the original French film's sequels, are outlawed.

1913 The first film magazine produced independently of the industry, *Katsudô no tomo* (*A Companion to Moving Pictures*), is published, although it is believed to have only lasted four issues. **October:** The magazine *Kinema Record* (initially titled *Film Record*) begins publication and lasts until its editor, Kaeriyama Norimasa, enters the company Tenkatsu in 1917.

1914 **17 March:** Kobayashi Kisaburô, the original head of Fukuhôdô, withdraws from Nikkatsu to form the Tenkatsu Company (*Tennenshoku Katsudô Shashin Kabushikigaisha*, or the Natural Color Moving Picture Company), producing films using the Kinemacolor process developed in Great Britain by Charles Urban and George Albert Smith. The company's first production, *Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees* (*Yoshitsune senbonzakura*), directed by Yoshino Jirô, premieres on 3 April. **23 August:** Japan formally declares war on the German Empire, after an official request from the British government for assistance in and around Chinese waters.

1916 Universal becomes the first American company to set up an office and distribution system in Japan.

1917 The Metropolitan Police issue the Motion Picture Entertainment Industry Control Regulations (*Katsudô shashin kôgyô torishimari kisoku*), the first regulations directly concerned with the film industry. The first animations produced in Japan, made independently of one another by Shimokawa Oten, Kôuchi Junichi, and Kitayama Seitarô, are released. Shimokawa's *Imokawa Mukuzo, The Janitor* (*Imokawa Mukuzô genkanban no maki*, 1917) is held to be the first of these released commercially, by the company Tenkatsu.

1918 World War I ends. Japan, an ally of Great Britain, France, and Russia though not heavily involved in the conflict, receives the former German colonies Tsingtao, the Mariana Islands, the Caroline Islands, and the Marshall Islands as mandates.

1919 July: The film journal *Kinema Junpô* is launched. **13 September:** The first billed appearance of a woman onscreen is in two films featuring the actress Hanayagi Harumi, directed by Kaeriyama Norimasa and released simultaneously by Tenkatsu: *The Girl in the Mountain* (*Shinzan no otome*) and *The Glory of Life* (*Sei no kagayaki*). The company is disbanded later that year, having produced and distributed an estimated 400 films. Its founder, Kobayashi Kisaburô, establishes a new company, Kokusai Katsuei (commonly abbreviated to Kokkatsu) on 16 December.

1920 May: Having withdrawn from his partner Kobayashi Kisaburô's company Kokkatsu, Yamakawa Kichitarô establishes Teikoku Kinema, commonly abbreviated to Teikine. Shochiku Kinema is founded, with its first film, *Island Woman* (*Shima no onna*), directed by Henry Kotani, released on 1 November. The company Taikatsu is founded in Yokohama by Thomas Kurihara, with financial backing from Asano Yoshizô. Its first film, *Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu*), directed by Kurihara from a script by Tanizaki Junichirô, is released on 19 November.

1921 Makino Shôzô leaves Nikkatsu to establish his own independent company. **8 April:** *Souls on the Road* (*Rojô no reikon*), directed by Murata Minoru and Osanai Kaoru, is released by Shochiku. The company opens its studios in Kamata in **June**. Actresses become a regular occurrence onscreen and stars in their own right, as they begin to replace *oyama* (female impersonators) following the appearances of Sawamura Haruko in *Souls on the Road*; Mizutani Yaeko in Nikkatsu's *Winter Camellia* (*Kantsubaki*), directed by Hatanaka Ryôha and released 24 April; and Kurishima Sumiko in Henry Kotani's films for Shochiku, *The Poppy* (*Gubijinsô*), released 29 April, and *An Electrician and his Wife* (*Denkô to sono tsuma*), released 6 May.

1922 October: Taikatsu is assimilated into Shochiku.

1923 1 September: The Great Kantô earthquake (*Kantô daishinsai*) destroys much of Tokyo and its surrounding areas, including parts of Yokohama, destroying many of the films produced until this point and forcing all the major companies to relocate their production facilities to Kyoto. Tôa Kinema is founded.

1924 Kinema Junpô begins its annual Best Ten awards, initially for foreign films only, with Charlie Chaplin's *Woman of Paris* (1923) voted best title in this first year. Shochiku resumes production at its Kamata studios and remains the only major company with production facilities in Tokyo until 1934. **June:** Makino Shôzô's company is absorbed into Tôa Kinema.

1925 The company Kokkatsu goes bankrupt. The country's four largest film producers, Tôa Kinema, Nikkatsu, Shochiku, and Teikine, join forces to establish the Japanese Film Producers Association to push the independents out of film production. Nevertheless, Makino Shôzô leaves Tôa Kinema to form his new company, Makino Productions. The Home Ministry issues the Motion Pictures (Film) Censorship Regulations (*Katsudô shashin [firumu] kenetsu kiroku*), the first national law on film censorship. 22 March: The first radio broadcast is transmitted from a studio by the Tokyo Broadcasting Station (*Tôkyô Hôsokyoku*). 12 May: The Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) is passed. September: The actor Bandô Tsumasaburô establishes his own independent production company, Bantsuma Pro. 1 November: Onoe Matsunosuke celebrates his 1,000th film appearance with the release of Ikeda Tomiyasu's *Araki Mataemon*.

1926 6 August: The Japan Broadcasting Association (NHK) is established, modeled on the British Broadcasting Corporation, through the merger of three regional broadcasting corporations in Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications. 11 September: Death of Onoe Matsunosuke, Japanese cinema's first major star. 24 September: Kinugasa Teinosuke's *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*) premieres at the Musashino-kan theater in Tokyo. 25 December: The Shôwa Era begins with the death of the Emperor Yoshihito and the accession of Emperor Hirohito, beginning the longest reign of any Japanese emperor until his death on 7 January 1989. *Kinema Junpô* commences its separate category for a Japanese film in the annual Best Ten awards, in its first year won by Abe Yutaka's *The Woman Who Touched Legs* (*Ashi ni sawatta onna*).

1927 The actor Ichikawa Utaemon leaves Makino Productions to form his own company, Uta Pro, establishing studios at the Awameike Amusement Park in Nara. **October:** Ozu Yasujiro's first film, *The Sword of Penitence* (*Zange no yaiba*), is released. The second installment of Itô Daisuke's *Chuji's Travel Diary* (*Chûji tabi nikki*) series, *Bloody Smile in Shinshu* (*Shinshû kessho hen*), tops *Kinema Junpô*'s Best Ten list as the year's best Japanese film. **December:** Nikkatsu establishes its Uzumasa studios in the suburbs of Kyoto.

1928 **April:** The actors Arashi Kanjûrô and Kataoka Chiezô both leave Makino Productions to form their own independent companies. **October:** The Towa Trading Partnership is founded by Kawakita Nagamasa and begins importing European films.

1929 P.C.L. (Photo Chemical Laboratories) is founded in Tokyo by Uemura Yasuji, expanding its activities over the next few years from laboratory work to experimenting with early sound-recording techniques. **2 February:** The Proletarian Film League of Japan (*Nihon Puroteria Eiga Dômei*), or Prokino (*Purokino*), is established. It holds its first public meeting on 31 May 1930. **25 July:** Pioneering director Makino Shôzô dies. **October:** The Great Depression is triggered by the New York stock market crash, and its effects are soon felt globally. Nikkatsu produces its first experiments with sound techniques, Ochiai Namio's *The Captain's Daughter* (*Taii no musume*) and Mizoguchi Kenji's *Hometown* (*Fujiwara Yoshie no furusato*). The first title premieres in November, with Mizoguchi's released in March 1930, although neither was counted as either a technical or commercial success.

1930 **February:** Suzuki Shigeyoshi's *What Made Her Do It?* (*Nani ga kanojo o sô sasetaka*) is released and becomes the most successful silent film up to this point in Japan, marking a peak in the popularity of the left-wing "tendency film" (*keikô eiga*). **July:** Kinugasa Teinosuke's *Crossroads* (*Jujirô*, 1928) opens in New York under the title *Slums of Tokyo*.

1931 Shinkô Kinema is founded from the old Teikine company, with further finances provided by Shochiku. **18 September:** The Manchurian Incident (or Mukden Incident) takes place, as Japan's Imperial Army attacks a Chinese garrison in Mukden, allegedly in retaliation for a bombing attack on the South Manchurian Railway, though this was later discovered to have been contrived by the Japanese as a pretext for invading Manchuria, in what is now seen as the beginning of Japan's Fifteen Year War in Asia. **1 August:** The first Japanese talkie is released, *The Neighbor's Wife and Mine* (*Madamu to nyôbô*), directed by Gosho Heinosuke for Shochiku.

1932 Irie Takako becomes the first actress to form an independent production company, which is joined by directors including Mizoguchi Kenji. **18 February:** The puppet state of Manchukuo is established by the Japanese in Manchuria. **April:** Nikkatsu releases its first talkie, Mizoguchi Kenji's *Timely Mediator* (*Toki no ujigami*), leading to mass picketings of its cinemas over the next few months by *benshi* union members. **May:** Charlie Chaplin visits Japan. **25 October:** P.C.L. constructs two rental stages in Tokyo for sound film production.

1933 Property magnate, and P.C.L.'s main financial backer, Kobayashi Ichizô, constructs three high-class theaters of several thousand seats in Tokyo's Yurakuchô district: the Toho Gekijô, the Hibiya Eiga Gekijô, and the Yuraku-za. **February:** Ôsawa Yoshio establishes J.O. Studios, the country's first exclusively dedicated to the production of talkies. **20 February:** The proletarian writer Kobayashi Takiji is tortured and killed while in police custody. **27 March:** Japan gives notice of its withdrawal from the League of Nations after it is condemned for the invasion of Manchuria. **4 March:** The Proposal for Bringing Cinema into Line with National Policy (*Eiga Kokusaku Kengi-an*) bill is passed by the Diet, establishing the precedent for the 1939 Film Law (*Eiga-hô*). **June:** The company Daito Eiga is established. **10 October:** The first feature film produced by P.C.L., *Musical Comedy: Intoxicated Life* (*Ongaku kigeki: Horoyoi jinsei*), directed by Kimura Sotoji and sponsored by Dai-Nippon Beer, premieres.

1934 *A Story of Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa Monogatari*) marks the third consecutive time a film by Ozu Yasujiro is voted *Kinema Junpô* best film of the year. The company Dai-ichi Motion Pictures (*Dai-ichi Eiga*) is founded by Nagata Masaichi, formerly of Nikkatsu. It is joined by a number of former Nikkatsu directors, including Itô Daisuke and Mizoguchi Kenji, although within two years it is dissolved. The proletarian film collective Prokino is disbanded due to increasing pressure from the police. Fuji Film is founded and begins the domestic mass production of film stock. **March:** The Film Control Committee (*Eiga tôsei iinkai*) is established to oversee the import and export of films.

1935 **November:** The Greater Japan Film Association (*Dai Nihon Eiga Kyôkai*) is established as a self-regulating industry body intended to coordinate the film world with national policy. **December:** The basement of the Nihon Gekijô theater in the Yurakuchô district of Tokyo becomes the first cinema dedicated to screening news films (*nyûsu eiga*).

1936 Shochiku relocates its studios in the Kantô region from Kamata to Ôfuna, near Kamakura. Ichikawa Utaemon disbands his production company

Uta Pro and enters Shochiku's studios in Kyoto. His elder brother Yamaguchi Tenryû takes over Uta Pro's former studios at Awameike, Nara, and establishes Zenshō Kinema. **26 February:** The *ni-ni-roku* incident, a failed coup by a faction of the Imperial Japanese Army staged to uphold the sovereignty of the Emperor Shōwa, results in the death of several politicians. The Directors Guild of Japan (*Nihon Eiga Kantoku Kyōkai*) is established to raise the status of directors within the industry, with Murata Minoru appointed as its first chairman. **5 March:** *First Figure* (*Hatsu Sugata*), the first feature film by a female director, Sakane Tazuko, is released. **April:** The official publication of the Greater Japan Film Association, *Nihon Eiga*, is launched. **21 May:** The Abe Sada Incident occurs, which forms the basis of a number of books and films, including Ōshima Nagisa's *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korīda*, 1976). **June:** Kobayashi Ichizō establishes the Toho Film Distribution Company to distribute the films of P.C.L. and J.O. Studios, as well as foreign films. **25 November:** Japan enters into the anticomunist treaty known as the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany, siding against the Soviet Union. The pact members are joined by fascist Italy on 6 November 1937, forming an alliance that would later become formalized as the Axis Alliance, in September 1940.

1937 *Moon over the Ruins* (*Kōjō no tsuki*), directed by Sasaki Keisuke for Shochiku, marks Japan's first participation at the Venice Film Festival, playing alongside a number of *bunka eiga* short films. The production companies of the actors Arashi Kanjūrō and Kataoka Chiezō are dissolved, with the staff of the former entering Nikkatsu's Kyoto studios and the latter joining Shinkō Kinema. **February:** The Arnold Fanck and Itami Mansaku versions of *The Daughter of the Samurai/The New Earth* (*Atarashiki tsuchi*) open simultaneously in Tokyo. **April:** Shochiku Kinema is amalgamated with the company's entertainments arm Shōchiku Kōgyō to become the Shochiku Corporation. **13 April:** Naruse Mikio's *Wife, Be Like a Rose* (1935) opens in New York. **26 June:** Mizoguchi Kenji takes over as chairman of the Directors Guild of Japan following Murata's death. **7 July:** The Marco Polo Bridge Incident (also known as the Lugou Bridge Incident) marks the beginning of the second Sino-Japanese War, as Japanese and Chinese forces clash 15 kilometers outside of Beijing, escalating into a conflict lasting until Japan's defeat by the Allied forces in 1945. **August:** The Manchuria Film Association (*Manshū Eiga Kyōkai*) is established in the puppet state of Manchuria to produce national policy films for its colonial subjects. **September:** Toho is established through an amalgamation of J.O. Studios and P.C.L. **12 November:** The actor Hasegawa Kazuo's left cheek is slashed by a razor-wielding attacker. **13**

December: The beginning of the Nanking Massacre (Rape of Nanking), as the then capital of the Republic of China is ransacked by the Imperial Japanese Army for a period of roughly six weeks.

1938 *Five Scouts (Gonin no sekkôhei)*, directed by Tasaka Tomotaka for Nikkatsu, is voted best film of the year by *Kinema Junpô*. It wins further plaudits at the Nazi Berlin Film Festival and jointly wins the Ministry for Popular Culture cup with the French film *Prison sans Barreaux* at the Venice Film Festival, where it plays with Shimizu Hiroshi's *Children in the Wind (Kaze no naka no kodomo)* and several *bunka eiga* short films. **24 March:** The National Mobilization Law (*Kokka sôdôin-Hô*) is passed, calling for the mobilization of all available workers for the war effort. **31 March:** Kawakita Nagamasa's production *The Road to Peace in the Orient (Tôyô heiwa no michi)*, filmed by Suzuki Shigeyoshi in China using a Chinese-speaking cast, premieres at the Imperial Theater (*Teikoku Gekijô*) in Tokyo. **8 June:** Tôyoko Eiga is established as a subsidiary of the Tôyoko Railway Company (*Tôkyô Yokohama Dentetsu*).

1939 Uchida Tomu's *Earth (Tsuchi)* is voted best film of the year by *Kinema Junpô*. It plays at the Venice Film Festival alongside the features *The Naval Brigade at Shanghai (Shanghai rikusentai, Kumagai Hisatora)*, *An Older Brother and His Younger Sister (Ane to sono imôto, Shimazu Yasujirô)*, and *Children of the Sun (Taiyô no ko, Abe Yutaka)*. **5 April:** The Film Law (*Eiga-hô*) is officially announced by the Japanese government, with the aim of bringing the industry under government jurisdiction, and goes into effect on 1 October. **27 June:** Kawakita Nagamasa establishes the China Film Company (*Chunghwa Dyan-ying*) in Shanghai upon the request of the Japanese government, to make films using Chinese casts and crews aimed at Chinese audiences.

1940 The number of imported films drops to 56 from 140 features in 1938 and 1939, with foreign-produced newsreels forbidden. Zenshō Kinema is absorbed into Shochiku, which closes its Awameike studios the following year. **January:** The left-wing film critic Iwasaki Akira is arrested and detained until 22 February 1941. **April:** The four national newsreel producers, comprised of the film production units of the *Asahi Shinbun*, *Osaka Mainichi*, and *Yomiuri* newspapers and the news service provider Dōmei Tsūshinsha, are integrated under government ordinance as the Japan Film Company (*Nippon Eigasha*), or Nichiei. **27 September:** Signing of the Tripartite Pact, officially allying the Axis Powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, and fascist Italy against the Allied Powers. **October:** Government regulations restructure

the 13 companies producing film magazines into four new publishing houses. *Kinema Junpô* suspends publication. Its award for the best Japanese film of the year is Toyoda Shirô's *Spring on Leper's Island* (*Kojima no haru*), with Leni Riefenstahl's *Fest der Völke*, released in Japan as *Minzoku no saiten*, the best foreign film.

1941 January: The new magazine *Eiga Junpô* begins publication, taking over *Kinema Junpô*'s Best Ten awards. Ozu Yasujiro's *Brothers and Sisters of the Toda Family* (*Toda-ke no kyôdai*, 1941) is voted best Japanese film of the year, though from this year until 1946 there are no awards for non-Japanese films. **11 February:** On Empire Day, Ri Kôran (Yamaguchi Yoshiko) performs songs from her films at the Nihon Gekijô theater in Yurakuchô, triggering riots in Tokyo when thousands of spectators are unable to get into the theater, although the incident is hushed up in the nation's media. **October:** The documentary maker Kamei Fumio is arrested and detained for "having violated the maintenance of public order." **7 December:** A surprise aerial attack launched by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii brings the United States into World War II.

1942 Under government ordinance, the Greater Japan Motion Picture Production Company (*Dai Nihon Eiga Seisaku Kabukishikigaisha*), which in 1945 becomes known as Daiei, is established through a merger between Nikkatsu's production facilities, Shinkô Kinema, and Daito, leaving Nikkatsu to function only in an exhibition capacity, while the Film Distribution Corporation (*Eiga Haikyû Kôsha*) is established to monopolize distribution. **December:** Toho's *The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya* (*Hawai-Marê oki kaisen*), directed by Yamamoto Kajirô is released to mark the first anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, with its spectacular reconstruction of the attack by special effects (*tokusatsu*) master Tsuburaya Eiji. The film tops the critics' Best Ten awards, now published in *Eiga Junpô*.

1943 Japan's first feature-length animation, *Momotaro: Eagle of the Sea* (*Momotarô no umiwashi*, Seo Mitsuyo), is released, made with the backing of the navy. Kurosawa Akira and Kinoshita Keisuke make their directing debuts with *Sanshiro Sugata* (*Sugata Sanshirô*) and *The Blossoming Port* (*Hanasaku minato*), respectively. A government program to promote austerity results in the closure of high-class bars, restaurants, geisha houses, and several major theaters. The annual Best Ten awards, established by *Kinema Junpô*, are discontinued until after the end of the war, as the number of film magazines falls from 33 in 1940 to only 3, with the last issue of *Eiga Junpô* published in November.

1944 Feature film production slumps to only 41 titles, and owing to a wartime shortage of raw film stock, the screening of culture films (*bunka eiga*) mandated by the Film Law is abandoned.

1945 **6 August:** The United States drops the atomic bomb “Little Boy” on Hiroshima. **9 August:** A second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. **15 August:** Emperor Hirohito broadcasts to the nation that Japan has surrendered to the Allied forces, bringing an end to World War II. All film theaters close for a week under the orders of the Film Distribution Corporation, which in the same year is restructured as the Film Corporation (*Eiga Kôsha*). **28 August:** The six-year occupation by Allied forces under Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP) General Douglas MacArthur begins. Film censorship passes into the hands of the Occupation. **September:** Kurosawa Akira completes *The Men Who Tread on the Tiger’s Tail* (*Tora no o o fumu otokotachi*), although because it is a *jidai-geki*, it is not released until the end of the Occupation, on 24 April 1952. **December:** The Union of Motion Picture Producers (*Eiga seisakusha rengôkai*), which in 1957 is reorganized as the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan (*Nihon Eiga Seisakusha Renmei*, or *Eiren*), is established as a voluntary association to maintain and revive the industry, initially including the feature film companies Shochiku, Toho, and Daiei as well as four news, short, and educational film companies: Asahi Film, Dentsu Film, Riken Science Film, and Yokohama Cinema.

1946 *Kinema Junpô* resumes its annual Best Ten awards, with Kinoshita Keinosuke’s *Morning for the Osone Family* (*Osone-ke no asa*) voted best film. **1 March:** The Labor Union Law is passed, leading to the formation of labor unions at the major studios. **3 May:** The International Military Tribunal for the Far East is convened to try the leaders of Imperial Japan for war crimes in the Tokyo Trials.

1947 The Cold War begins, lasting until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Nagata Masaichi takes over from Kikuchi Kan as the new president of Daiei. Tezuka Osamu’s *New Treasure Island* (*Shintakarajima*) is published, and its popularity lays the foundations for the modern *manga*. **March:** The company Shintohto is founded after labor strikes at Toho. **15 October:** Ôizumi Eiga is founded.

1948 Japan Animated Films (*Nihon Dôga Eiga*) is founded. The company is renamed Nichidô Eiga in 1952, then acquired by Toei in 1956 and renamed Toei Animation (*Tôei Dôga*).

1949 **June:** The Commission for the Administration of the Motion Picture Code of Ethics (*Eirin kanri iinkai*), or *Eirin*, is established as an autonomous censorship and regulatory body comprised of figures from within the industry, operating separately from the American Occupation and Japanese government administration. **1 October:** The company Tokyo Motion Picture Distribution (*Tôkyô Eiga Haikyû*), soon to become Toei, is established, initially for distribution purposes only. **November:** The Occupation eases restrictions on the distribution of *jidai-geki*, permitting each of the five major distribution chains to screen up to 12 such films annually.

1950 Following directives issued by General MacArthur in May to expel Japanese Communist Party members from their jobs, resulting in the purging of a large number of employees from studios including Daiei, Nichiei, Shochiku, and Toho, a number of small independent production companies, such as Kindai Eiga Kyôkai and Shinsei Eiga, are founded. **25 June:** The Korean War begins between forces in the North and South of the country. The conflict escalates with the involvement of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and the United States, the latter using occupied Japan as its base of operations in the region until a cease-fire is reached on 27 July 1953.

1951 Kurosawa Akira's *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*) receives the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival and the Academy Honorary Award, leading to the West's discovery of Japanese cinema. **31 March:** Toei is established, after Tokyo Motion Picture Distribution absorbs the companies Ôizumi Eiga and Tôyoko Eiga. **8 September:** The San Francisco Peace Treaty is signed between Japan and the Allied Powers, officially ending World War II and Japan's ambitions as an imperial power. **1 December:** *Kinema Junpô* resumes publication after a 10-year hiatus.

1952 **28 April:** The Allied Occupation ends, as the San Francisco Peace Treaty goes into effect.

1953 Mizoguchi Kenji's *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953) wins the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival. **1 February:** NHK begins Japan's first television broadcasting service.

1954 Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* and Mizoguchi's *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayû*, 1954) share the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival. Kinugasa Teinosuke's *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*) wins the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. *Eirin* introduces the *seijin* adult category (now R-18) for films unsuitable for minors, after Chiba Yasuki's *Temptation of*

Pleasure (*Aku no tanoshisa*, 1954) causes protests across a number of regions. **27 June:** Nikkatsu's first productions of the postwar period, *Chuji Kunisada* (*Kunisada Chûji*) and *Thus I Dreamed* (*Kakute yume ari*), are released. **3 November:** Toho releases Honda Ishirô's *Godzilla* (*Gojira*), with scenes partially inspired by the Bikini Atoll incident of 1 March, in which the fishing boat *Daigo Fukuryû-maru* is exposed to radiation from U.S. nuclear testing.

1955 Kinugasa's *Gate of Hell* wins the Academy Honorary Award. Industry statistical data, such as admissions and box office receipts, are made available by the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan from this year onward.

1956 Inagaki Hiroshi's *Samurai I: Musashi Miyamoto* (*Miyamoto Musashi*) wins the first Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film (formerly the Academy Honorary Award). *Eirin* is restructured to include figures from outside of the industry, and a mandatory per-meter fee is introduced for submitted films. **24 May:** The Anti-Prostitution Law (*baishun bôshi-hô*) is passed, leading to a short-lived fad of *Akasen* ("red light") films about the lives of prostitutes, including Mizoguchi's final film before his death on 24 August, *Street of Shame* (*Akasen chitai*). **July:** Toei takes over Japan Animated Films (*Nihon Dôga Eiga*) as a subsidiary, renaming it Toei Animation (*Tôei Dôga*). **26 December:** Toho releases the first color *kaijû eiga*, *Rodan* (*Sora no daikajû Radon*, 1956), directed by Honda Ishirô.

1957 The nonprofit organization UNIJAPAN is established under the auspices of the government to promote Japanese cinema overseas. **2 April:** Toei's *The Bride of Otori Castle* (*Ôtori-jô no hanayome*), directed by Matsuda Sadatsugu, is the first Japanese feature film released in a widescreen format.

1958 Peak year for the Japanese film industry, with attendances reaching 1,127 million. Inagaki Hiroshi's *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*) wins the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival. *Tokyo Story* (*Tôkyô monogatari*) becomes the first of Ozu Yasujiro's films to play outside of Japan, as part of the National Film Theatre in London's Japan Cinema Week, where it wins the Sutherland Trophy for best film. Toei establishes the subsidiary company Toei Television Production (*Tôei Terebi Purodakushon*).

1959 Kurosawa Akira wins the Best Director award at the Berlin Film Festival for *The Hidden Fortress* (*Kakushi toride no san akunin*). **17 No-**

vember: Ôshima Nagisa's *A Town of Love and Hope* (*Ai to kibô no machi*) is released, the first title promoted as part of the Shochiku Nouvelle Vague.

1960 Film production reaches a peak, with a total of 547 films released. **19 January:** Prime Minister Kishi Nobusuke signs the renewed Japan–U.S. Security Treaty, or Anpo Treaty, in Washington, D.C., allowing America to maintain troops on Japanese soil. **15 June:** The All-Japan Federation of Student's Self-Governing Associations (*Zengakuren*) surrounds the National Diet Building in protest against the treaty, resulting in a major clash with the police that results in the death of the student Kanba Michiko, though it nevertheless is passed on 19 June. Kishi resigns on 19 July. The incident formed the basis of a number of films, including Ôshima's *Night and Fog in Japan* (*Nihon no yoru to kiri*), which was pulled from circulation by Shochiku after three days of its release on 9 October, leading to Ôshima's resignation from the company.

1961 Shindô Kaneto's *Naked Island* (*Hadaka no shima*) wins the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival. **15 November:** The Art Theatre Guild (ATG) is established to introduce foreign art film releases to Japan, with its first release being *Mother Joanna of the Angels*, by the Polish director Jerzy Kawalerowicz, in April 1962. **October:** The company Shintocho becomes insolvent. **22 November:** Ôshima's first independent production, *The Catch* (*Shiiku*), is released.

1962 The Berlin Film Festival holds the first foreign retrospective of Ozu Yasujiro's films. The *Mainichi Shinbun* newspaper establishes the Ôfuji Noburô Award to recognize excellence in animation. In its first year it is awarded to Osamu Tezuka for *Tale of a Street Corner* (*Aru machi kado no monogatari*). The submission to *Eirin* of all films to be screened in Japan becomes mandatory. **27 February:** Kobayashi Satoru's *Flesh Market* (*Nikutai ichiba*) is released by Ôkura Eiga. Two days after opening, its run is stopped by police, who seize all prints. The film marks the beginning of the *eroduction* genre. **18 November:** Ozu's final film, *An Autumn Afternoon* (*Sanma no aji*, 1962), is released.

1963 Tezuka Osamu establishes Mushi Pro for the production of television animation. Mifune Toshirô establishes his production company, Mifune Pro, and releases *The Legacy of the 500,000* (*Gojûmannin no isan*). Ishihara Yujirô establishes his company, Ishihara Promotion, with his first production, *Alone Across the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô hitori-botchi*), directed by Ichikawa Kon and released by Nikkatsu. **12 December:** Ozu Yasujiro dies of cancer on his 60th birthday.

1964 The Tokyo Olympic Games is filmed by Ichikawa Kon as *Tokyo Olympiad* (*Tôkyô orinpikku*). Hidari Sachiko wins the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin Film Festival for her roles in Hani Susumu's *She and He* and Imamura Shôhei's *Insect Woman*, the latter title also voted the best of its year by *Kinema Junpô*. The Japanese delegation of Takabayashi Yôichi, Imura Takahiko, Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, and Donald Richie receive a group award at the first Knokke-Le-Zoute Experimental Film Festival in Belgium.

1965 Wakamatsu Kôji's *Secret Acts Behind Walls* (*Kabe no naka no himegoto*) plays unauthorized at the Berlin Film Festival, causing a public outcry in Japan. **19 June:** The release of *Black Snow* (*Kuroi yuki*) leads to the home of the film's director Takechi Tetsuji and the offices of distributor Nikkatsu being raided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and all the copies of the film being confiscated. Takechi is later prosecuted for "public obscenity."

1966 Kobayashi Masaki's *Kwaidan* (*Kaidan*, 1964) is nominated for an the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, after receiving the Jury Special Prize at the Cannes Film Festival the previous year.

1967 **25 June:** The first ATG production, Imamura's *A Man Vanishes* (*Ningen jôhatsu*), premieres. **August:** ATG opens a second theater in the basement of the Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka, named the Theatre Sasori-za, to provide an exhibition space for experimental films and live performances. Katsu Shintarô establishes his own company, Katsu Pro, with his first production, *Zatoichi the Outlaw* (*Zatôichi rôyaburi*), released on 12 August. **17 September:** Takechi Tetsuji is cleared of all charges of obscenity for his film *Black Snow*.

1968 **25 April:** Suzuki Seijun is dismissed from Nikkatsu, provoking an outcry among many figures working in the industry.

1970 **14 March:** The Expo '70 World Fair begins in Suita, Osaka. **31 March:** Nine members of the Red Army Faction (*Sekigun-ha*), carrying swords and pipe-bombs, hijack Japan Airlines Flight 351, the "Yodo" aircraft, on a routine internal flight from Tokyo to Fukuoka. The flight is directed to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, in Japan's first-ever plane hijacking. **June:** Daiei and Nikkatsu integrate their distribution network as Daiichi Film Distribution (*Dainichi Eihai*). **14 June:** The Anpo Treaty is renewed, leading to mass protests on 23–24 June. **25 November:** The novelist Mishima Yukio commits suicide in a shocking public incident.

1971 **August:** Nikkatsu withdraws from its distribution partnership with Daiei, and on 20 November launches its Roman Porno range of erotic films with *Castle Orgies* (*Irogoyomi ôoku hiwa*) and *Apartment Wife: Afternoon Affair* (*Danchi-zuma: Hirusagari no jôji*). **29 November:** Daiei goes bankrupt.

1972 **January:** The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department raids the offices of Nikkatsu and *Eirin* and confiscates all the copies of the Roman Porno films *Love Hunter* (*Koi no karyûdo: Rabu hantâ*) and *Office Lady Diary: Scent of a She-Cat* (*OL nikki: Mesuneko no nioi*) and Umezawa Kaoru's pink film *High School Geisha* (*Jogakusei geisha*), leading to the prosecution of nine people, including three directors and three *Eirin* staff members, for public obscenity. The case continues until July 1980, when they are acquitted of all charges. **19 February:** A 10-day standoff between the police and members of the United Red Army (Rengô Sekigun) begins at Asama Mountain Lodge, with the end of the siege attracting the highest viewing figures in Japanese television history. **May 30:** Three members of the Japanese Red Army commit the Lod Airport Massacre in Tel Aviv, Israel.

1973 Tezuka Osamu's Mushi Pro company goes bankrupt.

1975 The first recorded year in which the share of the market for Japanese films falls below that of imported films, taking only 44.4 percent of the box office despite the fact that 333 domestic productions are released against 225 foreign films. The figure rises to 48.5 percent in 1976 and averages around 50 percent until 1990. The first video decks for the home-viewing market go on sale, with Sony's Betamax system soon followed by another competing format pioneered in Japan, JVC's VHS. Kurosawa Akira's *Dersu Uzala* wins the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award and the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival. Tanaka Kinuyo wins the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin Film Festival for *Sandakan No. 8* (*Sandakan hachiban shôkan: Bôkyô*), directed by Kumai Kei.

1976 Takakura Ken leaves Toei to go independent. **July:** A book containing the script, essays, and several stills from *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korîda*) results in director Ôshima Nagisa and its editor Takemura Hajime being prosecuted for obscenity, several months before the film's official opening in Japan on 26 September. The film wins the Sutherland Trophy at the British Film Institute's annual awards.

1977 PIA Film Festival (PFF) is launched to promote the field of *jishu eiga* independent filmmaking. Image Forum (formerly the Japan Underground

Film Center) establishes its theater in Tokyo, specializing in experimental and world cinema. **January:** The Nihon Ethics of Video Association (NEVA, or *Bide-rin*) is established to monitor the new video market. **December:** Toei establishes the subsidiary Toei Central Film.

1978 Ôshima wins the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival for *Empire of Passion* (*Ai no bôrei*).

1980 Kurosawa Akira's *Kagemusha* wins the Palme D'or at the Cannes Film Festival.

1982 Kurosawa receives the Career Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. The rental market for videocassettes, as opposed to direct sales, is established. The Director's Company is established by Miyasaka Susumu.

1983 Imamura's *The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*) wins the Palme D'or at the Cannes Film Festival. **12 December:** Oshii Mamoru's *Dallos* (*Darosu*) goes on sale as the first OVA animation made exclusively for the video market.

1985 **31 May–9 June:** The first Tokyo International Film Festival is held in Shibuya, becoming the first international film festival in Japan. The festival opens with Kurosawa Akira's *Ran*, with the Grand Prix awarded to Sômai Shinji for *Typhoon Club* (*Taifû kurabu*). **June:** The animation house Studio Ghibli is established.

1986 **4 October:** Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's *Bound for the Fields, the Mountains and the Seacoast* (*No-yuki yama-yuki umibe-yuki*), the last film to be produced by ATG, is released.

1988 **28 May:** Nikkatsu brings an end to its Roman Porno line with the release of Gotô Daisuke's *Bed Partner* (*Beddo pâtona*) and Kanazawa Katsuji's *The Love Game Isn't Over* (*Rabu gêmu wa owaranai*). **October:** Toei Central Film is dissolved.

1989 Cinema attendance has declined to 8 percent of its peak year in 1958, with only 143.5 million admissions. The downward trend continues until 1996. *Violent Cop* (*Sono otoko, kyôbô ni tsuki*) and *Tetsuo: The Iron Man*, the respective directing debuts of Kitano Takeshi and Tsukamoto Shinya, are released. Broadcast satellite (BS) and cable TV services begin. Toei Video begins its V-Cinema series of direct-to-video films. **7 January:** The Emperor

Hirohito's death marks the end of the Shôwa era. The succession by his son Akihito marks the beginning of the Heisei era. **10–15 October:** The first Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF) is held, with the aim of promoting Asian documentary film.

1990 Kurosawa Akira receives the Academy Honorary Award for lifetime achievement in film. Oguri Kôhei wins the Grand Prix du Jury at the Cannes Film Festival with *The Sting of Death* (*Shi no toge*). The market share for Japanese films drops to average around 40 percent throughout the following decade.

1992 Nikkatsu goes into receivership after the box office failure of *The Setting Sun* (*Rakuyô*), directed by Tomono Rô, although it is bought out by the games giant Namco the following year. **22 May:** The director Itami Jûzô is attacked in his home by five members of the Gotô-gumi *yakuza* gang following the release of *Minbo—Or the Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion* (*Minbô no onna*). **6 June:** *The Strange Tale of Oyuki* (*Bokutô kidan*), directed and produced by Shindô Kaneto through his own company, is the last film to be released by ATG. **13 June:** The Director's Company releases its final film, *The Guard from the Underground* (*Jigoku no keibiin*), directed by Kurosawa Kiyoshi.

1994 **2 August:** Kitano Takeshi is involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident. **17 December:** Takahashi Banmei's *A New Love in Tokyo* (*Ai no shin-sekai*) is released, the first Japanese film passed by *Eirin* to feature full-frontal nudity.

1995 **19 January:** The Kobe, or Great Hanshin earthquake, results in the loss of 6,434 lives. **20 March:** The renegade religious cult Aum Shinrikyô perpetrates a series of Sarin Gas attacks on the Tokyo subway.

1996 Cinema attendance reaches its lowest level since the war, with only 119.5 million admissions, a figure that begins steadily increasing from this period onward.

1997 Miyazaki Hayao's *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*) becomes the highest-grossing movie ever released in Japan, until it is overtaken by James Cameron's *Titanic* several months later. Imamura Shôhei is awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for the second time, for the *The Eel* (*Unagi*). Kawase Naomi wins the Caméra d'Or at the same festival, for *Suzaku* (*Moe no Suzaku*). At the Venice Film Festival, Kitano Takeshi's *Fireworks* (*Hana-bi*) wins the Golden Lion Award. **11 July:** Suô Masayuki's *Shall*

We Dance? (Shall We Dansu?) is released in the United States by Miramax and goes on to become the country's top-grossing Asian film of all time, until the release of Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (Wo hu cang long)* in 2000. **20 December:** Itami Jûzô dies falling from the roof of his office building in a suspected suicide.

1998 The satellite broadcasting company WOWOW launches its subsidiary, SunCent Cinema Works (*Sansento shinema wâkusu*), with Sentô Takenori as producer and president, to produce artistic and challenging films by a new generation of independent directors. While many of its productions played widely at international festivals, they were considerably less successful domestically, and the company began to wind down operations in 2001.

2000 Aoyama Shinji's *Eureka (Yurika)*, produced by SunCent Cinema Works, receives the FIPRESCI Award at the Cannes Film Festival, although is not released in Japan until the following year.

2001 The SunCent productions of Aoyama's *Desert Moon* and Kore'eda Hirokazu's *Distance (Disutansu)* play in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. Miyazaki Hayao's *Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi)* beats *Titanic* to become the top-grossing film, Japanese or other, of all time.

2002 *Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi)* wins the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival. Japanese cinema attains its lowest share of the market in its history, with domestic productions accounting for only 27.1 percent of gross box office receipts. **June:** The Computer Entertainment Rating Organization (*Tokutei hieiri katsudô hôjin konpyûta entâ-teinmento rêtingu kikô*, or CERO) is established to provide age ratings for video games.

2003 Miyazaki Hayao's *Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi)* wins Best Animated Feature at the 75th Academy Awards. Kitano Takeshi's *Zatoichi (Zatôichi)* wins the Silver Lion award at the Venice Film Festival. The Fuji Television production of *Bayside Shakedown 2 (Odoru daisôsasen The Movie 2, Motohiro Katsuyuki)* becomes the most successful Japanese live-action title of all time when it is released by Toho. Such production-distribution partnerships of spin-offs from popular television series dominate the box office for the remainder of the decade.

2004 The number of box office admissions reaches its highest point of the decade, with 170 million admissions, although Japanese films only ac-

count for 37.5 percent of the market share. Oshii Mamoru's *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence* (*Inosensu*) and Kore'eda Hirokazu's *Nobody Knows* (*Dare mo shiranai*) play in competition at the Cannes Film Festival, with Yagira Yûya winning the Best Actor Award for his appearance in Kore'eda's film.

2005 Kobayashi Masahiro's *Bashing* (*Basshingu*) plays in competition, and Aoyama Shinji's *Eli Eli Lema Sabachtani?* (2005) plays in the Un Certain Regard section, at the Cannes Film Festival. The year's top-grossing release is Miyazaki Hayao's *Howl's Moving Castle* (*Hauru no ugoku shiro*).

2006 The market share for Japanese productions rises to 53.2 percent, earning more than foreign releases for the first time since 1985, with Studio Ghibli's *Tales from Earthsea* (*Gedo senki*), directed by Miyazaki Gorô, the top-grossing domestic release of the year. This figure falls to 47.7 percent in 2007, but increases to 59.5 percent in 2008.

2007 Kawase Naomi wins the Grand Prix du Jury at the Cannes Film Festival with *The Mourning Forest* (*Mogari no mori*). Kikuchi Rinko is nominated for the Best Actress category in the Academy Awards for her role in Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Babel* (2006). The Venice Film Festival bestows its first "Glory to the Filmmaker!" award on Kitano Takeshi. **23 August:** Police raid the premises of several adult video distributors and at least one major electronics chain for either directly distributing or facilitating the distribution of obscene materials.

2008 Kumasaka Izuru's *ASYL: Park and Love Hotel* (*Pâku ando rabu hoteru*) wins the award for the Best First Feature at the Berlin Film Festival. Kurosawa Kiyoshi's *Tokyo Sonata* (*Tôkyô sonata*) wins the Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival. Kitano Takeshi receives a Lifetime Achievement award from the Moscow International Film Festival. **12 April:** The release of the documentary *Yasukuni*, about the controversial shrine for Japan's war dead, is postponed after conservative members of the Japanese government raise issues about the film's political agenda and a number of theaters receive threats from nationalist groups. It opens under police supervision on 3 May.

2009 Sono Shion's *Love Exposure* (*Ai no mukidashi*) wins the Caligari Prize and the FIPRESCI Film Critics' Prize at Berlin. Takita Yôjirô's *Departures* (*Okuribito*) wins Best Foreign Language Film, and Katô Kunio's *The House of Small Cubes* (*Tsumiki no ie*) wins the Best Animated Short at the 81st Academy Awards.

2010 Terajima Shinobu wins the Silver Bear for Best Actress for her role in Wakamatsu Kôji's *Caterpillar* (*Kyatapirâ*), and Yukisada Isao wins the FIPRESCI award for *Parade* (*Parêdo*) at the Berlin Film Festival.

Introduction

There are many reasons why Japanese cinema can be considered a legitimate and rewarding field of study. As well as representing the world's second largest exhibition market, the country boasts the longest unbroken history of production outside the United States and Europe. The earliest films shot in Japan by resident cameraman Shibata Tsunekichi were produced as early as 1898, within a few years of the first public exhibition of projected motion pictures by the Lumière brothers in Paris, which is held to mark the birth of the medium. Japan's cinema predates that of Russia, China, and India, and has been able to sustain itself without outside assistance for over a century, unlike the industries of, for example, Australia, Great Britain, and many other European nations, which are largely reliant on outside finance and international coproduction deals. As such, the country's cinematic output can serve to reorient our understanding of the modern era, presenting a detailed chronicle of the historical and social trends of the twentieth century through an alternate, non-Western perspective to the dominant voice of Hollywood.

THE STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

In terms of the number of releases, Japan retains one of the largest industries in the world. In 2008, 418 domestically produced films were distributed in Japanese cinemas, as opposed to 388 foreign productions, according to statistics published by the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan (*Nihon eiga seisakusha renmei*, or *Eiren*). This might be down from its peak of over 547 domestic films released in 1960 (with only 216 imported), but nevertheless, there are very few countries outside of America that can sustain such levels of output or enjoy a majority audience for their own products. As a geographically isolated and, on the surface at least, predominantly homogeneous society with a population of 127 million, this is in no small measure attributable to factors of language and culture: foreign releases have traditionally been subtitled rather than dubbed, and many of its performers, stories, and characters are already familiar through a host of other media such as

manga, novels, television, video games, and popular music, as well as being drawn from the country's own rich history and mythology. In 2008, Japanese productions represented 59.5 percent of gross domestic box-office receipts. Although this figure is considerably less than the market share of around the 70 percent mark during the Golden Age of the 1950s (referred to generally as the Second Golden Age, following the first blossoming of Japanese film as an art form in the prewar environment of the 1930s), with a peak of 78.3 percent in 1960, the past decade marks a distinct turnaround from a period of steady decline since the 1970s, when in 1975 foreign imports outgrossed domestic productions for the first time ever, with Japanese films taking only 44.4 percent of overall box office. In terms of revenues, Japanese cinema was seen to be in an irrevocable slump at the turn of the millennium, with the industry's box office share for the 293 released domestic productions (as opposed to 347 imported films) reaching an all-time low of 27.1 percent in 2002 (a year in which the five top-grossing titles were the Hollywood studio productions *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*; *Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones*; *Monsters, Inc.*; *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*; and *Spider-Man*). Its resurgence over the past decade might be seen as miraculous, although it must come with some caveats.

Although the period saw an overall strengthening of the domestic performance of Japanese productions, the figures are generally weighted by a few select titles, with the majority of releases nowhere near as profitable. The animated films of Miyazaki Hayao have regularly dominated the box office in the years of their releases, and it is worth noting that it was Studio Ghibli's *The Cat Returns* (*Neko no ongaeshi*), though not directed by Miyazaki, that was the top-grossing domestic release of 2002, an otherwise inauspicious year for the Japanese industry. While the decade saw the country's most consistently popular filmmaker heralded internationally for the first time, with *Spirited Away* (*Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi*) winning the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival and Best Animated Feature at the 75th Academy Awards, many of the most successful domestic titles, such as *Bayside Shakedown 2* (*Odoru daisôsasen The Movie 2*, Motohiro Katsuyuki, 2003), *Crying Out Love, in the Center of the World* (*Sekai no chûshin de, ai o sakebu*, Yukisada Isao, 2004), and *Boys over Flowers: Final* (*Hana yori dango: Fainaru*, Ishii Yasuharu, 2008), were theatrical spin-offs of popular television dramas. Despite recapturing a younger demographic believed lost to Hollywood, such films have attracted considerably less interest in non-Asian markets.

The 2000s were the decade that saw television tie-ins reign at the Japanese box office, with the distributor Toho capturing a massive 38 percent of the domestic market for itself by 2008 through such films, distributing all the

aforementioned titles as well as theatrical animations for the children's market featuring popular *anime* characters like *Pokémon* and *Detective Conan* (*Meitantei Conan*), similarly established in alternate media fields such as video games and *manga*. As Japan's largest exhibitor, Toho has also distributed many of the country's most profitable imported titles, including *Avatar* (James Cameron, U.S., 2009). There is a general concern, however, that this current situation is not particularly healthy for the industry at large, with smaller or midsize studios and distributors struggling to compete against this near monopoly of the market. Furthermore, though the number of screens in the country grew from 2,524 in 2000 to 3,396 in 2009, the boom in domestic production, particularly in the latter half of the decade, saw many films sitting on the shelves for long periods awaiting distribution. This has resulted in a considerably harsher environment in which to produce more challenging works or to foster a new wave of more artistically ambitious and outward-looking directors.

Taken as a whole, the Japanese film industry has never been reliant on overseas sales; one might argue that the push to promote Japanese cinema at overseas festivals by major studios such as Daiei during the 1950s, which saw the introduction of filmmakers such as Kurosawa Akira and Mizoguchi Kenji to the West, was motivated more by cultural than financial reasons, although the kudos of international recognition for their films would have given the individual studios a competitive edge against their rivals in the domestic market. Still, it seems ironic, given the emphasis placed by the country's politicians in recent years on promoting its contents industry overseas—with the fields of computer games, *manga*, and *anime* all seen as vital contributors not only to Japan's economy, but to its cultural standing in the world—that its cinema should be becoming, if anything, more insular in its outlook. Cinema is an international medium, with its practitioners participating in a global discourse. The industry's reliance on commercially safe adaptations, remakes, or tie-ins with other homegrown media has perhaps more serious ramifications in its simple failure to resonate with non-Japanese viewers. It effectively acts as a bar to Japan's filmmakers contributing to this discourse.

There have, however, been a number of more positive trends during the past decade. *Anime* has had an undeniable influence on the aesthetics and content of numerous Hollywood films in the science fiction and action genres, from *The Matrix* (Larry Wachowski and Andy Wachowski, 1999) to *Avatar* (James Cameron, 2009), while Asian horror films, particularly Japanese ones, have been subjected to a series of prominent American remakes and have similarly had a significant bearing on the path of the genre as a whole. The international impact of *Ring* (*Ringu*, 1998) and *Ju-on: The Grudge* (*Juon*, 2003) resulted in the films' directors, Nakata Hideo and Shimizu Takashi,

being successfully courted by Hollywood, becoming the first ever Japanese filmmakers to direct within the U.S. studio system, if one discounts Masuda Toshio and Fukasaku Kinji's contribution to Twentieth Century-Fox's war epic *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (Richard Fleischer, 1970). However, neither Nakata nor Shimizu can be described as having been afforded much in the way of artistic control or choice of material in their American reworkings of their originals films, nor have they expanded their international reputations beyond their niche status as Japanese horror directors. Their effective domestication by Hollywood sits in contrast to other non-American filmmakers of the same generation, such as Mexico's Alfonso Cuarón and Alejandro González Iñárritu or Brazil's Fernando Meirelles.

This sense of Japanese cinema's insularity is compounded by the fact that, unlike the majority of national industries, foreign coproductions are a rarity, although recently there have been a number of works by Japanese directors partially financed by other countries, notably the cult titles *Machine Girl* (*Kataude mashin gāru*, Iguchi Noboru, 2008) and *Tokyo Gore Police* (*Tōkyō zankoku keisatsu*, Nishimura Yoshihiro, 2008), both produced in association with the American distributor Media Blasters. It should be stressed that these are exceptions to the general rule, and furthermore, they are very much geared toward the expectations of Western horror audiences.

Meanwhile, major international film festivals such as Berlin, Rotterdam, Venice, and Cannes have continued to play a role in ensuring Japanese cinema's overseas visibility, with directors including Kawase Naomi, Kitano Takeshi, Kore'eda Hirokazu, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, and Sono Shion enjoying a good degree of critical recognition and exposure to international markets. The works of such *auteurist* directors are not always so commercially successful domestically, and it is interesting to note that several of Kawase's films have been financed by European companies, whereas Kurosawa's most critically regarded title, *Tokyo Sonata* (*Tōkyō sonata*, 2008), based on an original script by an Australian, Max Mannix, received funding from Hong Kong and the Netherlands. Such international coproduction arrangements present a possible avenue for Japanese filmmakers to maintain their reputation for reflectiveness, innovation, and social engagement, with works that are just as relevant to global audiences as local ones.

Another positive trend has been a flourishing in *jishu eiga*, or amateur filmmaking, brought about through the increased availability of digital technologies. The proliferation of specialist venues, events, and festivals to showcase such works, both inside and outside of Japan, has resulted in a minor revolution, with its filmmakers defining their own space to create films that in many cases could not exist within the mainstream sector. Motivated by the desire to communicate and a love of the filmmaking process rather than

financial gain, it is questionable whether many of its practitioners, reliant on other forms of employment for their income, can maintain the enthusiasm to develop their talents in a more commercial context. Nevertheless, since the late 1970s the field has provided a wellspring of new talent who have gone on to make their living in filmmaking, including a significant number of women directors. Given the inevitable changes in production, distribution, and exhibition patterns brought about by Internet technologies that are certain to have a profound effect on all industries across the world, the *jishu eiga* community will no doubt play a vital role in the future of Japanese cinema and appreciation of it overseas.

NATIONAL CINEMA AND INDIGENOUS GENRES

When attempting to study such industries as Japan's through the framework of "national cinema," it is crucial to be aware of the complexities inherent in the term. From its very beginnings, cinema has been a global medium whose resulting output is shaped by such factors as international cross-flows of labor and capital and the influence of individual texts upon one another. Cinema's very technology originated outside of Japan, and from the moment of its adoption, a great many of the films that circulated were from countries such as France, Germany, and Italy, and of particular importance after 1916, the United States, which came to dominate the market for foreign films following the disruption of the European industry that came with World War I. The word *yôga* came into use to distinguish this cinema from overseas, which gave Japanese viewers their first glimpses of modern Western life, from the comparative term *hôga*, used to describe Japanese productions. The terms are still in common usage today, even though over the past century or so, foreign and domestic productions can hardly be described as having existed in separate, mutually exclusive spheres.

Cinema's arrival in the country coincided with a rapid, concerted push for industrialization and modernization, encouraged by the Meiji-era government following the restoration of the emperor and Japan's opening up to the rest of the world in 1868. The Meiji Restoration marked the end to the self-imposed isolation of the Edo Period and Japan's birth as a modern nation eager to compete on an equal footing on the world stage. To this aim, it adopted the judicial, political, and educational systems of various European countries, as well as its technologies, with the slogan *Wakon yôsai* ("Japanese Spirit, Western technology") the rallying cry of the era.

As one such technology, cinema served the dual purposes of bringing the outside world to Japan and allowing the country to redefine itself as a modern

nation-state through image and narrative. Still, this international currency of ideas seems to have been very much a one-way process. There are records of the Yoshizawa Company opening a London office as early as 1902, with the company's president, Kawaura Kenichi, traveling to America to exhibit footage of the Russo-Japanese War and scenes of everyday Japanese life at the St. Louis International Exposition of 1904. However, although little research has been done in the English language about the reception these early images of Japan had in the West, it seems they made little lasting impression, and as is clear from this volume's bibliography, knowledge outside of Japan about the state of Japanese cinema was severely limited until the 1950s.

Due to its cultural, geographical, and linguistic isolation relative to industries with a comparative history and scale of output, Japanese cinema has been viewed as offering an "exotic" alternative to the aesthetic, stylistic, and narrative norms established by Hollywood, its films seen instead as deriving from nativist cultural traditions. Such an essentialist approach is dangerous on several counts. To the foreign observer it can overemphasize differences over similarities and risks reinforcing views of Western cultural dominance by viewing Japan solely in terms of an alien "other," and indeed it has served exactly this purpose in the past. Conversely, Japanese cultural critics have contributed to the discourses on *Nihonjinron* ("Theories of Japaneseness") by arguing the case for its cinema, as with other indigenous art forms, as an outward expression of the mysterious, indefinable quality known as the *Yamato damashii*, or "Japanese spirit," a culturally loaded phrase that posits Japan's uniqueness in the world; this was undeniably the case during the late 1930s, when intellectuals called for a purge of Western influences in favor of a canonization of feudal traditions of austerity and self-sacrifice for the greater national good, usually by recourse to historical period dramas from the premodern period prior to the Meiji era, giving rise to what Darrell William Davis terms the "Monumental Style" in his book *Picturing Japaneseness: Monumental Style, National Identity, Japanese Film*.

The first foreign studies of Japanese cinema, which are covered in more detail in the introduction to the bibliography, gravitated toward *auteurist* studies of the major directors known in the West and close textual analyses of what were seen as key titles, mainly due to the fact that films that were intended primarily as popular entertainment in Japan were exhibited at film festivals or in specialist art-house venues in Europe and North America. While such approaches, it can be argued, have served as necessary entry points into the subject, the valorization of certain individuals had the unfortunate tendency of overlooking the overall filmmaking climate in which they worked and has acted to some extent as a distraction to a broader understanding of the subject. As Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano argues in *Nippon Modern: Japanese Cinema of*

the 1920s and 1930s, previous attempts to posit the early works of Ozu Yasujiro as already somewhat exceptional in terms of content and *mise-en-scène* ignored the work of other directors such as Shimazu Yasujiro and Shimizu Hiroshi, who worked within the similar genres fostered by the same studio, Shochiku. More elucidating is the study of the studio environment that such figures operated within; the genres these studios cultivated; and how these genres were shaped by cultural, political, and economic factors.

Japanese cinema's long history of production and considerable output has seen films made in a variety of genres. By the Second Golden Age of the 1950s, the major studios had sufficiently established their identities and target markets so that their output could readily be distinguished from their rivals'. By producing their films at their own facilities with staffs of contracted actors, directors, cinematographers, set designers, and other technicians and exhibiting them through their own networks of venues, each studio effectively established its own recognizable style or brand, in which a film by Shochiku, which predominantly produced melodramas and romances appealing to female or family audiences, would promise something different than a film by Toei, which worked in more action-driven fields such as swashbuckling *jidai-geki* period dramas of *yakuza* gangster movies. This was not to say there was not an exchange of talent between the studios, in which contracted stars might appear on loan in other companies' productions or directors would migrate to other studios, nor were the studios' brands rigidly set in stone.

However, the type of film produced by each company was largely defined by the figures that controlled it, such as Kido Shirô at Shochiku and Hori Kyûsaku at Nikkatsu. Furthermore, with cinema going a habitual form of entertainment before the increased permeation of television into the nation's homes from the late 1950s onward, individual genres also experienced sudden booms in popularity, as studios struggled to increase their share of the market. *Auteurist* approaches tend to ignore that the two biggest hits of this period were Shochiku's epic romance *What Is Your Name?* (*Kimi no na wa*), directed by Ôba Hideo and released in three installments from 1953 to 1954, and Shintoho's *The Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo-Japanese War* (*Meiji tennô to nichiro dai-sensô*, 1957), directed by Watanabe Kunio, the second Japanese production to be filmed using widescreen technology. These titles have barely warranted a mention in English-language histories of Japanese cinema, yet the success of the latter in particular played a vital role in establishing the widescreen format as the norm in Japan for the next few decades and led to a short-lived postwar boom of similar re-creations of historic modern battles from Shintoho.

Any study of genre in Japan must take into account that such staples as the popular action-driven samurai films known as *chanbara* (swordplay movies)

or *yakuza* movies were not simply transposed from Hollywood Westerns or crime movies, although there certainly may have been foreign influences. The solitary masterless samurai, or *rônin*, who wanders about from town to town protecting local folk from injustice and feudal oppression certainly has its parallels with the lone outlaw of the Western movie and played as significant a role in Japan's cinema in articulating concerns about individuality versus group identity and the dangers of authoritarianism as its counterpart did in America. However, the material on which such films were based emerged from local traditions, and the films often addressed more culturally specific concerns (the main exception to this are the films of Kurosawa Akira, whose narratives were either fictional in their basis or, as was so often the case, drew upon foreign sources, which undoubtedly has had a large bearing on their universal popularity and influence).

Stories based on real-life Edo-period outlaws such as Kunisada Chûji and Shimizu no Jirôchô have retained an enduring appeal in the nation's cinema, but the films recounting their mythologized exploits have been formalized along very different lines depending on the era in which they were made, and while they might be seen as epitomizing the *jidai-geki* genre, by focusing on characters outside of the law, they also can be seen as antecedents to the *yakuza* film. Meanwhile, while the legend of *Chûshingura*, or *The 47 Loyal Ronin*, in which a group of samurai retainers plot to avenge the death of their master, has been filmed on many occasions, films such as *Salaryman Chushingura* (*Sararîman Chûshingura*, Sugie Toshio, 1960–1961, two parts), which restaged the legend in a modern-day corporate environment, demonstrate that concepts of genre are not as impervious as one might think. Put simply, many of Japanese cinema's core genres have been subject to revision and reinvention in accordance with the era in which they were made.

At the same time, it is important to bear in mind that Toei's *ninkyô eiga* ("chivalry films") line of *yakuza* serials, produced during the 1960s, are also very different from the gangster films produced by Nikkatsu during the same period in their *mukokuseki akushun* ("Borderless Action") range. Nikkatsu's films were often hybrids with other genres such as the youth movie (*seishun eiga*) or even the musical, and directors such as Masuda Toshio have admitted to borrowing wholeheartedly from foreign sources such as Julian Duvivier's *Pépé le Moko* (1936) and Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless* (*À bout de souffle*, 1960).

To understand this concept of genre better, the process by which such endemic staples emerged in Japan is worth looking at in a little more detail. As mentioned, the first films produced in the country were shot in 1898, within a very short period of the introduction of cinema technology to Japan, and by the time of the establishment of Nikkatsu in 1909, an industrial scale of

production had already been realized. From the start, fictional films were categorized as being of either foreign (*yôga*) or domestic origin (*hôga*), but very soon a further division emerged within this latter group between period dramas, or *jidai-geki*, and contemporary dramas, or *gendai geki*, the latter drawing upon the *Shinpa*, or “New School” theatrical movement established in the late 1880s. This distinction survives to this day, although the two categories must be considered far too broad to be described as genres as such.

Though barely any of the films made prior to the 1920s survive to this day, many of them having been destroyed in the Great Kantô earthquake of 1923 and even more lost through neglect and the passing of time, contemporaneous accounts describe their technique as primitive, seldom deviating from filming the action from a fixed camera position, as if the spectator were viewing a stage performance. But we can say that there were other ways of categorizing the films other than the period in which they were set. Films in both fields came to be made in comedic and melodramatic veins, while within *jidai-geki*, for example, films that prioritized athletic scenes of action and sword-fighting as the primary attraction were referred to as *chanbara*, and films featuring supernatural subject matter might be seen as a precursor to the horror genre.

The *gendai-geki*, meanwhile, came more to be shaped through the active criticism of the Pure Film Movement, which argued for a local cinema more international in its scope that reflected a modern image of Japan by making full use of the tools unique to cinema (close-ups, fades, and the compression of action and narrative cross-cutting through the use of editing) and a less theatrical, more psychologically “realistic” style of acting. The resulting films, of which only Murata Minoru and Osanai Kaoru’s *Souls on the Road* (*Rojô no reikon*, 1921) survives, might be best described as direct emulations of American productions but featuring Japanese casts, and it was not until the early 1920s, when the newly formed Shochiku studios began to apply Hollywood techniques to tell stories reflecting the everyday reality of its audiences, that a Japanese cinema emerged that can truly be described as modern. Again, this style of film, known as *shomin-geki*, or “common people’s dramas,” is too broad to be considered a genre as such, encompassing both melodramatic and comedic styles and subject matter, but it was not long until certain scenarios and plot elements became codified, refined, and hybridized to create various new subgenres, such as home dramas, sports movies, college romances, and salaryman comedies.

The stylistic developments in the *gendai-geki* field also worked their way into *jidai-geki* titles such as Itô Daisuke’s *Chuji’s Travel Diary: Bloody Smile in Shinshu* (*Chûji tabi nikki: Shinshû kessho-hen*, 1927) and *Man-Slashing, Horse-Piercing Sword* (*Zanjin zamba ken*, 1929). For a brief period of a few years starting in the late 1920s, a number of popular films criticizing and

highlighting social inequalities from a left-wing perspective also appeared, known as the “tendency film” (*keikô eiga*), while, as with the birth of the musical in Hollywood, the coming of the “talkies” also saw numerous productions structured around popular songs. That both such types of film might have either contemporary or historical settings further demonstrates the complexities of applying Western genre theory to Japanese film.

OVERSEAS DISTRIBUTION AND RECEPTION

One might argue that there are two histories of Japanese cinema: its actual history and that as recorded by foreign observers. It is an evident truism that due to the rise of the Internet and the DVD market, we are in a far better situation now to gain a more thorough understanding of Japanese cinema’s complex, multifaceted history than we have been at any other time, allowing us to revise or reinforce our opinions about key figures such as Kurosawa Akira or Ôshima Nagisa and gain a more substantial picture of the context in which they operated.

The difficulties that earlier commentators had to overcome are perhaps best summed up by a passage in Arthur Knight’s *The Liveliest Art: A Panoramic History of the Movies*, published in 1957:

Until Akira Kurosawa’s *Rashomon* won the Grand Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, it was generally assumed that the industry in Japan—like the studios in India or Egypt—simply turned out great quantities of films of dubious merit and purely local interest. Although pictures had been made there since 1904, almost since the time that movies started, few had been seen by the Western World and none had roused any particular enthusiasm. In fact, not until the thirties, when Japan began her campaigns of conquest in the Orient, was there an industry of any size. As so often happens, the films followed the flag. Through wars and economic penetration, Japan had captured for herself a vast potential audience in China, Manchuria, Indochina and Korea, a market long dominated by the European and Hollywood studios. With their particular gift for cheap imitation, the Japanese were soon turning out between seven and eight hundred films a year—mostly pseudo-French romances or American-style crime and action pictures. Through this flood of films, they effectively ousted or undersold all competitors in the Far East, a market that Japan controls to this day.

Knight’s comments illustrate several points, notably the strong anti-Japanese sentiment still current in the United States and the lack of precise factual information available at the time of writing (stating, for example, that “pictures had been made there since 1904”). What he does touch upon, however, is that

though few Japanese films might have been seen by Westerners, they were distributed quite extensively outside of Japan, in markets such as Manchuria, Taiwan, and the Philippines, all at one point territories of Imperial Japan, and heavily influenced the development of local film industries across Asia.

There is still much research to be done in the English language about what was shown where and how it was received. It is known, for example, that Japanese films were distributed in countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and Brazil in both the pre- and postwar periods, as well as in specialist cinemas for Asian immigrant communities across the United States, while during the 1960s a large number of titles were released into what would be described as adult cinemas across Europe and North America in retitled versions; not only erotic pink films but also lesser titles from the major studios that are long forgotten even in Japan. It is less clear exactly what titles these were. That such works passed unnoticed by critics and opinion makers of the time in favor of the select titles that screened at international film festivals or institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York or the British Film Institute in London highlights the problems inherent in approaching cinema as “Art” as opposed to a vernacular form of entertainment. In short, divorcing individual texts from commercial practices obfuscates the true nature of the image of Japan that was actually being presented to the rest of the world.

Looking more closely at the early international film market, it should be remembered that in the mid-1920s, cinema across much of the world was seen as a working-class form of entertainment dominated by economic concerns. Japanese films would have been screened regularly in specialist theaters catering to immigrant communities in Los Angeles and certain other cities in North America, but the general public had little interest in non-Hollywood or foreign films from radically different cultures. Film criticism and scholarship were far from the serious vocations they would later become, and there were no film festivals, film archives, film institutes, or film societies. This was the climate in which the director Kinugasa Teinosuke tried to introduce his film *Crossroads* (*Jujirō*) to the West, traveling to Moscow on the Trans-Siberian Express carrying a print of the film in 1928, and then on to Berlin and Paris, resulting in its screening in several European capitals and later New York. In the same year, another figure, Nagamasa Kakita, founded the Towa Trading Partnership to foster relationships between Japan and the West through cinema, but though he managed to introduce a good number of European films to Japan upon his return from Germany, where he had been studying, it is less clear how successful he was in bringing Japanese films to Europe.

Some of the earliest records in the English language of Japanese films being presented to non-Japanese audiences in Europe are contained within the brochures of the London Film Society. Founded on 25 October 1925, with the

aim of creating an alternative intellectual film culture that treated film as art, it provided an exhibition environment for avant-garde works without mass commercial appeal. Throughout its history, the London Film Society screened a number of Japanese films, with Murata Minoru's Nikkatsu production *The Street Juggler* (*Machi no tejinashi*, 1925) screening on 30 May 1926, followed by Nomura Hôtei's *The Tragedy of the Temple Hagi* (*Haji-dera shinjû*, 1923) on 8 January 1928, Kinugasa's *Crossroads* (as *Crossways*) on 26 January 1930, and Murata's *Ashes* (*Kaijin*, 1929) on 20 November 1932. Their reception amply demonstrates the more open-minded attitudes that such film societies harbored over those who held cinema as a purely economic endeavor, at a time long before the establishment of an art-house circuit dedicated to screening foreign-language films.

From Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations in 1933 until its defeat in the Pacific War in 1945, only a few Japanese titles received any kind of release in English-speaking territories, with the best example being Naruse Mikio's *Wife, Be Like a Rose* (*Tsuma yo bara no yô ni*, 1935), which opened in New York in April 1937 as *Kimiko*. Japanese films were a presence, however, at the Berlin and Venice film festivals during this period, and it was the latter that famously provided the platform for the postwar surge of interest when Nagata Masaichi of Daiei submitted Kurosawa Akira's *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*) for competition, where it won the Golden Lion Award.

The 1950s heralded a new period of internationalization for the industry, with the legendary Austrian director Josef von Sternberg going to Japan to film *The Saga of Anatahan* (*Anatahan*, 1953), a Japanese production featuring an all-Japanese cast, and several works gaining plaudits at the Cannes Film Festival, Venice, and the Academy Awards. Some of the major studios were more active than others in promoting their work overseas. It is clear that the surface exoticism of many of the films was the key to much of their appeal; the vast majority of those that aired were *jidai-geki*, and contemporary dramas were very much a rarity. Toho eagerly capitalized on the foreign appreciation for the work of Kurosawa, while Shochiku infamously claimed that the films of Ozu Yasujiro were "too Japanese" to find favor with Western audiences, with the first major foreign retrospective held at the Berlin Film Festival in 1962, the year before the director's death.

Concurrent with the rise of the art-house genre and foreign festival circuit was the appearance of another significant distribution outlet, television. In the United States in particular, from the late 1950s onward the medium provided a haven for re-edited, redubbed versions of films in genres including *chanbara*, horror, science fiction, and *kaijû eiga*, and it provided many with their first experiences of Japanese cinema. A field that particularly owes its present-day popularity to television is *anime*, with Tezuka Osamu's *Astro*

Boy (*Tetsuwan atomu*, 1963), the first Japanese animated television series to be broadcast in the United States, leading the charge. The 1970s also saw a number of coproductions with European studios.

The 1970s and 1980s were marked by relative neglect for live-action film by Western commentators. The oft-voiced critical opinion was that Japanese cinema was in a period of irrevocable decline and a long way from the Golden Age heyday of the 1950s and the exciting developments of the Japanese New Wave in the 1960s. The major studios either reduced their output or switched to exploitation genres, such as Nikkatsu, with its Roman Porno erotic line, while few of the titles from new companies such as the Director's Company or those produced by Kadokawa Haruki received overseas distribution. A number of the established directors who remained the focus of international attention, including Kurosawa and Ôshima, relied on international funding to realize their projects.

The situation began to improve in the early 1990s, with a new cult audience emerging around the films of directors such as Kitano Takeshi and Tsukamoto Shinya. The large rise in interest in the fields of *anime* and *manga* brought about by Ôtomo Katsuhiro's *Akira* (1988) led to a growing network of devotees known as *otaku*, who congregated at fan conventions and traded fan-subbed videos by post. Such phenomena were facilitated through the arrival of the Internet, which also made it easier to find new information about Japanese releases and gain access to English-subtitled VCDs, and later DVDs, released in territories such as Hong Kong or Singapore.

The year 1997 marked a turning point in overseas interest in Japanese cinema, with Miyazaki Hayao's *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*) attracting significant attention in the West when it became the highest-grossing title yet released in Japan; Suô Masayuki's *Shall We Dance?* (*Shall We Dansu?*) beating all-time box-office records for an Asian film upon its release in the United States; and major awards being won by Imamura Shôhei and Kawase Naomi at the Cannes Film Festival and Kitano Takeshi at Venice Film Festival.

Such a resurgence on the world stage paved the way for the subsequent popularity of titles such as Miike Takashi's *Audition* (*Ôdishon*, 2000) and Fukasaku Kinji's *Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, 2000). Cult and horror titles like these, as well as the films of Nakata Hideo, Shimizu Takashi, and Tsukamoto Shinya, and similar works from countries including Hong Kong, Korea, and Thailand, led to the emergence of a new marketing label, "Asian Extreme," initiated by the British distributor Tartan Films, which remained a popular aspect of the company's output until its demise in 2008. *Anime* has retained its enduring popularity, while the samurai trilogy of Yamada Yôji, beginning with *Twilight Samurai* (*Tasogare seibei*, 2002), was also widely circulated in foreign countries, as were the art-house films of Kore'eda Hiro-

kazu. While a growing number of Japanese films were released both theatrically and on DVD in the early 2000s, the prominence accorded to what might be considered minority interest genres not only presented a partial view of the full spectrum of the country's output, but has also given rise to numerous preconceptions about Japanese cinema. Comedies and dramas such as those directed by Nakashima Tetsuya, Ishii Katsuhiro, and Miki Satoshi have only been widely available on the overseas home viewing market since the mid-2000s, while the majority of the television tie-ins and *manga* adaptations popular at the domestic box office have been largely unacknowledged by Western critics, and the nongenre, midbudget titles that make up the bulk of domestic releases are still little seen outside of film festivals.

Nevertheless, the new millennium has seen a host of film festivals, DVD labels, and websites dedicated to Japanese cinema emerging all over the world, offering it a privileged position relative to other national cinemas as an area of study and interest. With the proliferating wealth of information and greater possibilities of experiencing the many elements that comprise its long and rich heritage, its influence throughout the world seems almost certain to become even stronger.

A

AKIRA (1988). *Akira* spearheaded the massive surge in the popularity of *anime* in the West during the 1990s. Directed for the screen by **Ôtomo Katsuhiro** from his own phenomenally popular 2,000-page *manga* series published from 1982 to 1990, at the time it was the most expensive animated production ever in Japan, with a total of 70 staff working on its 783 individual scenes, which are comprised of more than 150,000 drawings using a color palette of 327 different hues. The film still represents a high-water mark for hand-drawn 2D cell animation produced anywhere in the world.

Akira is set in an alternative future 31 years after Tokyo has been destroyed in a nuclear blast in 1988 that signals the end of World War III. Its story follows Tetsuo, a young teenage tearaway with psychic powers, as he flees from the authorities, who wish to harness his unique powers for their own nefarious ends. The film popularized many of the motifs now associated with *anime*, including dynamically cinematic action sequences and a vision of the future Tokyo decaying from within, with elected politicians, military officials, religious cults, and terrorist groups all locked in a struggle for power that culminates in spectacular images of the city's destruction.

ANIMAL MOVIE. A significant number of live-action fiction films featuring animal protagonists have been produced in Japan, many apparently modeled on Walt Disney's *The Incredible Journey* (Fletcher Markle, 1963), and though they have generally not attracted much in the way of attention from Western commentators, their very nature has allowed a surprisingly large number to cross international borders in ways that obscure their country of origin.

Fuji Television's production of *A Kitten's Story* (*Koneko monogatari*, 1987), in which a young kitten and a puppy embark on an epic wilderness adventure, was distributed in America by Columbia Pictures as *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*, in a version redubbed with narration by Dudley Moore. The film's director, Hata Masanori, a popular essayist and nature TV presenter, later supervised the Japanese-language version of the Australian-Japanese coproduction of *Napoleon* (1995, Mario Andreacchio), titled *Kulta: The*

Adventure of a Golden Dog, which follows a golden retriever puppy's voyage across the outback in a hot air balloon. The film featured an all-animal cast voiced by human actors, making it easy to dub a new script. Disney's *Eight Below* (Frank Marshall, 2006) was a remake of *Antarctica* (*Nankyoku monogatari*, 1983), a fictionalized reconstruction by **Toho** of an apparently true story about two huskies who managed to survive for an entire year after being abandoned at the South Pole by their masters (one of whom is played by **Takakura Ken**) during a scientific exhibition in 1958. The original film, which was the highest-grossing domestic production in Japanese history until **Miyazaki Hayao's** *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*, 1997), was directed by Kurahara Koreyoshi, who had previously filmed *The Fox in the Quest of the Northern Sun* (*Kita kitsune monogatari*, 1978), which followed a family of foxes in Hokkaido throughout the four seasons, and *Elephant Story* (*Zô monogatari*, 1980), both for Toho.

An early literary example of seeing the world through animal eyes can be found in Natsume Soseki's novel *I Am a Cat* (*Wagahai wa neko de aru*), a satire of bourgeois values set during the Meiji period, in which a family is subjected to the scrutiny of their pet. The story, published in 1905, was adapted for the screen by Yamamoto Kajirô in 1936 and **Ichikawa Kon** in 1975. More enduring, however, have been narratives featuring anthropomorphized dogs, which have their precedent in a true story of canine fidelity. During the early Shôwa period, an Akita hound named Hachikô continued to make the daily trip to Shibuya station to await the return of his owner from work for almost a decade after his master's death in 1925. Hachikô's bronze statue, erected in 1934, is a popular meeting spot outside Shibuya station, while the story has been immortalized in *Hachiko Story* (*Hachikô monogatari*, Kôyama Seijirô, 1987), later remade in Hollywood as *Hachi: A Dog's Tale* (2008), starring Richard Gere and directed by Lasse Hallström. **Shochiku**, which distributed the original film, attempted to reprise its success with *Haras* (*Harasu no ita hibi*, Kuriyama Tomio, 1989), based on a nonfiction book about how the emotional life of a childless middle-aged couple is changed after acquiring a new pet.

Other movies featuring dogs in prominent roles include *Farewell, Kuro* (*Sayonara kuro*, Matsuoka Jôji, 2003), in which a class of high-school students band together to look after an adopted stray; *Walking with the Dog* (*Inu to arukeba: Chirori to Tamura*, Shinozaki Makoto, 2004), in which a young man uses a dog he befriends in the street to make peace with his girlfriend by having him trained as a therapy dog to aid her terminally ill mother; the 11-story omnibus *All About My Dog* (*Inu no eiga*, Isshin Inudô, 2004), produced by Ichise Takashige, best known for his work in **J-Horror**; the comical *Voice of Dog* (*Inugoe*, Yokoi Takeshi, 2005); *A Tale of Mari and Three*

Puppies (*Mari to koinu no monogatari*, Inomata Ryûichi, 2007), in which a young girl is separated from her adopted pet and her three puppies when an earthquake hits the rural village where they live; and **Sai Yôichi**'s phenomenally successful *Quill* (*Kuîru*, 2004).

ANIME (アニメ). Animation is among Japan's largest and most visible of cultural exports, enjoying a widespread popularity throughout Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America. Sometimes referred to as Japanimation, the more familiar name *anime* (a contraction of the English loan word *animation*) replaced the earlier terms used in Japan, *dôga* ("moving pictures") and *manga eiga* ("comic book films"; *manga*, the term for Japanese comics, literally means "frivolous pictures") in the 1980s to distinguish a new photorealistic style pioneered by directors who shot to prominence during the decade, such as **Oshii Mamoru**, Rintarô, and Yamaga Hiroyuki. *Anime* became a global catchword following the huge international success of **Ôtomo Katsuhiko**'s *Akira* (1988).

Because of this, *anime* has been viewed as something divergent from Western norms of the commercial medium, characterized by its detailed designs, high-tech futuristic settings, surprisingly graphic depictions of sex and violence, and an approach to its subject matter that often wanders into more philosophical territory. However, such attributions often ignore the full spectrum of animation in Japan with regard to style, content, target audience, and the channels through which the works are circulated, either through theatrical screenings, **OVA** (Original Video Animation) releases exclusively for the video market, or television, all of which bring their own influences to bear on format and content.

The medium began modestly in Japan with its first three practitioners, Shimokawa Oten (1892–1973), Kôuchi Junichi (1886–1970), and Kitayama Seitarô (1888–1945), all releasing works independently of one another in 1917. Shimokawa's *Imokawa Mukuzo, The Janitor* (*Imokawa Mukuzô genkanban no maki*) is commonly believed to be the first to have been released commercially, produced by the company Tenkatsu. Early animations were typically under 10 minutes in length, and subject matter was derived from both foreign children's stories, like Yamamoto Sanae's *The Hare and the Tortoise* (*Usage to kame*, 1924), and sources closer to home, such as Kimura Hakuzan's *Dreamy Urashima* (*Nonki na tô-san ryugu mairi*, 1925), a version of the *Urashima Taro* folktale about a lazy man descending to the ocean floor on the back of a turtle, where he discovers a miraculous undersea castle. Another source was popular newspaper cartoon strips. Early techniques included photographing single frames drawn on blackboards or on paper and redrawing each one in full or in part, or through more expedient methods like shadow

animation (*kage-e*) and paper cut-out, or collage animation (*kiri-gami*), the latter pioneered by **Ôfuji Noburô**. The high cost of imported celluloid made the practice of cell animation, adopted at an early stage in the development of the medium in the West, initially prohibitively expensive.

The technical innovation of fully synchronized sound came with *The World of Power and Women* (*Chikara to onna no yo no naka*, 1932), originally distributed by Shochiku but now apparently lost. Its director, Masaoka Kenzô (1898–1988), is also credited with the first completely cell-animated work, *The Dance of the Chagama* (*Chagama ondo*, 1935). With the increased use of transparent cells came a subsequent change in style, with more fluid character designs influenced by foreign works such as those of Disney and the Fleischer Brothers.

Animation was adopted for advertising, educational, and political purposes at an early stage in its evolution, and as the 1930s progressed, its production became increasingly complex and industrialized. Popular cartoon characters also soon found themselves deployed in wartime propaganda like Murata Yasuji's *Corporal Norakuro* (*Norakuro gochô*, 1934) and Seo Mitsuyo's *Momotaro: Eagle of the Sea* (*Momotarô no umiwashi*, 1943), featuring the legendary child hero born from a peach leading an army of animals in an attack on Pearl Harbor (see MOCHINAGA TADAHITO; WAR AND FILM). The significant resources devoted to the latter title represented a huge step forward for the medium, making it the longest Japanese animation till this point, with a running time of 37 minutes (though only 33 minutes survive). It was followed by *Momotaro: Divine Warrior of the Sea* (*Momotarô umi no shinpei*, 1945), about the capture of Singapore.

The Allied Occupation brought a huge change in subject matter, as stories with a more traditional or historical basis were actively discouraged, and over the years animated films became progressively longer. The establishment of the company Toei Animation (Tôei Dôga) in 1956 (see TOEI COMPANY) brought about the first full-color, feature-length animation, *Legend of the White Serpent* (*Hakujaden*, Yabushita Taiji, 1958), based on a Chinese story. It was also the first Japanese animation released widely in America, in a dubbed version in 1961, as *The Panda and the Magic Serpent*. Toei Animation continued over the next few decades with a long line of similarly ambitious titles, including **Tezuka Osamu**'s *Journey to the West* (*Saiyûki*, 1960), Yabuki Kimirô's *Puss in Boots* (*Nagagutsu o haita neko*, 1969), Ikeda Hiroshi's *Animal Treasure Island* (*Dôbutsu takarajima*, 1971), and Urayama Kirio's *Taro the Dragon Boy* (*Tatsu no ko Tarô*, 1979), while offering a training ground for a new generation of animators, including **Studio Ghibli**'s **Miyazaki Hayao** and **Takahata Isao**.

If Japan's largest animation studio did not have the same international reach as its American counterpart, Disney Studios, it soon discovered its own niche in television, competing in this new field against the country's most influential *manga* artist, **Tezuka Osamu**, whose company Mushi Pro was responsible for the animated incarnation of his comic book creation *Astro Boy* (*Tetsuwan atomu*, 1963), Japan's first TV animation and the country's first series to be broadcast in the United States. As Toei Animation also continued producing theatrical features, TV animation became a huge business, cheaper to produce but with a far larger potential audience. The series *Gatchaman* (1972) played on Western networks under the title *Battle of the Planets* in the late 1970s, while popular *manga* characters like *Lupin III* (1971) and *Doraemon* (1973) established themselves on the small screen while consolidating their popularity with regular theatrical outings during the school holidays.

By the end of the decade, animation plots had become more involved, and the audience demographic had expanded into the older age brackets. Typical of the time were the theatrical releases of *Space Battleship Yamato* (*Uchû senkan Yamato*, **Masuda Toshio**, 1977), *Space Pirate Captain Harlock* (*Uchû kaizoku kyaputen Hârokku*, Komatsubara Kazuo, 1978), and *Galaxy Express 999* (*Ginga tetsudô 999*, Rintarô, 1979), all spin-offs from popular TV animations and owing their iconic designs and scenarios to *manga* artist Matsumoto Leiji.

Meanwhile, outside of the mainstream markets of cinema and TV, craftsmen such as **Mochinaga Tadahito**, Kuri Yôji, **Kawamoto Kihachirô**, and Okamoto Tadanari explored alternative styles and techniques, including cut-out, claymation, and stop-motion puppet animation, mainly outside of the commercial industry, in an attempt to push the medium in new artistic directions, while Tezuka's Mushi Pro also made a number of experimental works that explored the medium's potential. Such films have proven popular at international festivals and awards ceremonies, with Yamamura Kôji's *Mt. Head* (*Atama-yama*, 2002) nominated for the Academy Award for the Best Animated Short in 2003 and Katô Kunio's *The House of Small Cubes* (*Tsumiki no ie*, 2008) winning in the same category in 2009.

The 1980s were an important decade for animation, with theatrical releases of works originating on TV or spin-offs of *manga* including *Mobile Suit Gundam* (*Kidô senshi Gandamu*, Tomino Yoshiyuki, 1981), *The Super Dimension Fortress Macross: Do You Remember Love?* (*Chôjikû yôsai Makurosu: Ai oboete imasuka*, 1984), and *Patlabor: The Movie* (*Kidô keisatsu patorebâ*, 1989), and the new technology of home video further ensuring their longevity with the birth of the OVA medium. This alternate distribution channel also gave rise to works whose production values were not up to cinematic standards or whose content effectively barred them from

TV, such as the series of adaptations of violent and erotic *manga* like *Cream Lemon* (*Kurîmu remon*, 1984) and *Urotsukidoji: Legend of the Overfiend* (*Chôjin densetsu Urotsukidôji*, 1987). The decade also saw the emergence of the animation *auteurs*, individual visionaries such as Ghibli's Miyazaki Hayao, with *Nausicaä: Valley of the Wind* (*Kaze no tani no Naushika*, 1984); **Oshii Mamoru**, with *Angel's Egg* (*Tenshi no tamago*, 1985); Rintarô with *The Dagger of Kamui* (*Kamui no ken*, 1985); and Ôtomo Katsuhiro, with *Akira* (1988). The latter work carried on from Yamaga Hiroyuki and Gainax Studio's *Royal Space Force: The Wings of Honneamise* (*Ôritsu uchûgun: Oneamisu no tsubasa*, 1987), one of the first to render its intelligent science fiction scenario, which parodied the Cold War space race, with a realistic design style and fluid animation.

As *Akira* began to attract new audiences for Japanese animation across the world, the 1990s saw a number of titles that continued the pursuit of cinematic realism, a notable debut being **Kon Satoshi's** hypnotic psychological thriller *Perfect Blue* (1998). Meanwhile, the work of Studio Ghibli dominated the domestic box office and garnered both critical and popular support overseas, presenting another side to the nation's industry. Miyazaki Hayao avoided futuristic themes, jumping back over a thousand years into Japan's mythic past with *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*, 1997), which became the top-grossing Japanese film of all time and led to an international distribution deal for the studio's back catalog in the English-speaking world with Disney.

Technical advances continued to be made. Long after an early, inauspicious CG-rendered sequence in Dezaki Osamu's *Golgo 13* (*Gorugo 13*, 1983), in 1996 the Ôtomo-produced omnibus movie *Memories* made effective use of 3D computer-graphic techniques to embellish traditional 2D cell animation. The first fully computer-animated feature, Maejima Kenichi's *A.Li.Ce.*, followed a few years later, in 1999. A minor title, its appearance was dwarfed by the U.S.–Japanese coproduction of *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within* (Sakaguchi Hironobu, 2001), whose budget is estimated to have reached \$137 million. Based on a popular video game franchise, this film looked so realistic that in certain shots it could have been mistaken for live action. Unfortunately, with global returns of only \$85 million, the film failed disastrously at the international box office and resulted in the bankruptcy of Square Pictures, the company established for its production. Ironically, the simple hand-drawn 2D animation of *Pokémon: The First Movie* (1999), directed by Yuyama Kunihiro with an international version prepared by Michael Haigney, grossed a similar figure in the U.S. market alone. Meanwhile, advances in computer technology also permitted the emergence of individual animators making professional-quality works, the most regularly cited example being Shinkai

Makoto, whose *The Voices of a Distant Star* (*Hoshi no koe*, 2002) adhered very much to the traditional *anime* style but was realized singlehandedly using a Macintosh computer.

Interestingly, whereas American studios have largely abandoned traditional hand-drawn animation in favor of computer-rendered models in the 21st century, Japanese animators have taken to combining both old and new techniques with incredible inventiveness. The eclectic surrealism of Studio 4°C's *Mind Game* (*Maindo geimu*, Yuasa Masaaki, 2004) and the same company's distinctive designs for *Tekkon Kinkreet* (Michael Arias, 2006); the sleek hyperrealism of *Appleseed* (*Appurushido*, Aramaki Shinji, 2004) and *Vexille* (*Bekishiru*, Sori Fumihiko, 2007); and the playful presentational approach of Oshii Mamoru's *Tachigui: The Amazing Lives of the Fast Food Grifters* (*Tachigu-shi retsuden*, 2006) all hint that regardless of what technology is used, Japanese animation will have no problem retaining its old fan base while continuing to develop in new and exciting directions. *See also* HISAISHI JÔ.

ANPO AGREEMENT (JAPAN–U.S. SECURITY TREATY, 安保).

An abbreviation of *Nichibei anzen hoshô jôyaku*, the Anpo Agreement was a treaty signed between the United States and Japan on 19 January 1960 that allowed American troops to remain on Japanese soil long after the Occupation had ended in 1952. With Japan's postwar constitution not permitting the country to maintain an army (the Japan Self-Defense Force, or *Jieitai*, was allowed, to defend the nation from foreign attack, but not to send troops overseas until the antiwar clause was waived when troops were sent to Iraq in the wake of the 2003 war), the clause effectively put Japan under the military protection of America and sided it with its Cold War strategies. There was considerable public opposition in the run-up to the extension of the original treaty, with a mass demonstration outside the Diet building on 15 June 1960 leading to a skirmish between the police and the protesters, which resulted in the death of Kanba Michiko, a student from Tokyo University. The treaty was nonetheless passed on 19 June by Prime Minister Kishi Nobusuke, who resigned shortly thereafter. The failure of the Anti-Anpo (*anpo hantai*) movement dominated much of the political discourse of the 1960s, especially given Japan's role in supporting U.S. troops during the Vietnam War, and led to the formation of violent radical left-wing groups such as the Red Army Faction (*Sekigun-ha*) and the Keihin Anti Security Treaty Joint Struggle (*Keihin Anpo Kyôtô*). Further mass protests occurred with the second renewal of the treaty on 14 June 1970, but to this day the joint military pact between the United States and Japan remains in effect.

The issues surrounding the failure of the political left to thwart the Anpo Agreement informed the content of a number of films from the 1960s, especially those by the directors associated with the **Japanese New Wave**. **Ôshima Nagisa** addressed the 1960 and 1970 protests to various degrees in films such as *Cruel Story of Youth* (*Seishun zankoku monogatari*, 1960), *Night and Fog in Japan* (*Nihon no yoru to kiri*, 1960), and *The Man Who Left His Will on Film* (*Tôkyô sensô sengo hiwa*, 1970). **Shinoda Masahiro**'s *Dry Lake* (*Kawaita mizuumi*, 1960), **Hani Susumu**'s *A Full Life* (*Mitasareta seikatsu*, 1962), **Masumura Yasuzô**'s *A False Student* (*Nise daigakusei*, 1960), and Yoshida Kijû's *Eros Plus Massacre* (*Erosu + gyakusatsu*, 1970) all feature characters involved in the protest movement. The 15 June protests were documented in *Document 6/15* (*Dokumento 6.15*, 1962) by Jônouchi Motoharu and the Nihon University Film Study Club (*Nihon Daigaku Eiga Kenkyû-kai*, or *Nichidai Eiken*) collective, while **pink film** directors including Okuwaki Toshio, in *Naked Pursuit* (*Kôfun*, 1968), and **Wakamatsu Kôji**, with films including *Running in Madness*, *Dying in Love* (*Kyôsôjôshikô*, 1969), *Sex Jack* (*Seizoku: sekkusu jakku*, 1970), and *Ecstasy of Angels* (*Tenshi no kôkotsu*, 1972), contextualized their dramas within the world of student radicalism and other antiauthoritarian activity, as did **Shindô Kaneto** for more mainstream audiences in *Live Today, Die Tomorrow* (*Hadaka no jûkyûsai*, 1970), based on the life of the serial killer Nagayama Norio. See also ASAMA MOUNTAIN LODGE INCIDENT; INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION; JAPANESE NEW WAVE.

AOKI TSURUKO (青木鶴子, 1892–1961). Aoki Tsuru is cited as the first Asian actress to ever receive top billing in a Hollywood motion picture, at a time when in her home country female roles were played by male performers (see WOMEN). Born Aoki Tsuruko, she began her career on stage after immigrating to Los Angeles with her aunt and uncle in 1903, appearing in a series of five films produced by Thomas H. Ince for his New York Motion Pictures Company, beginning with *The Oath of Tsuru San* (1913). Ince's films capitalized on the craze for exotic subject matter yet utilized Asian actors as opposed to Caucasians in "yellowface," as later became the standard Hollywood practice. In one such starring role in Reginald Barker's *O Mimi San* (1914), she met the actor **Hayakawa Sessue**, to whom she was married on 1 May 1914. The two became a notable Hollywood couple, appearing in a number of films together, even after her career had been eclipsed by that of her husband. Unlike Hayakawa, she never attempted to transfer her acting career to the Japanese industry. In 1924, she retired from the screen for almost 40 years to raise the couple's two adopted children, returning only in 1960 to appear in one final film alongside her husband, Phil Karlson's

wartime drama *Hell to Eternity*. See also PURE FILM MOVEMENT; TANIZAKI JUNICHIRO.

AOYAMA SHINJI (青山真治, 1964–). Aoyama Shinji is a director who was particularly prominent at European film festivals at the turn of the millennium. His 217-minute monochrome epic *Eureka* (*Yurika*, 2001), which followed the three survivors of a violent bus-jacking as they try to reconnect with the world around them by embarking on a long-distance road journey, received the critics' FIPRESCI Award at Cannes in 2000, while *Desert Moon* (*Tsuki no sabaku*, 2001), about an IT entrepreneur thrown into crisis after his wife and daughter leave him, played in competition at the same festival the following year.

Many of Aoyama's films, including *Eureka*, are set in the director's birthplace of Kita-Kyushu. His feature film debut, *Helpless* (1996), portrays youths running amok in its postindustrial environs as a young *chinpira* released from jail goes in search of his missing *yakuza* boss while his father lies terminally ill in the hospital. *Sad Vacation* (*Saddo bakeishon*, 2007) reunites several characters from *Helpless* and *Eureka* to focus on how they have reconstructed their lives after the events of the previous films.

The theme of characters slowly recovering from a defining traumatic incident recurs throughout Aoyama's oeuvre, as do his attempts to explore such ideas within established commercial genres, albeit utilizing an austere and pessimistic approach. The *film noir*-ish police thriller *An Obsession* (*Tsumetai chi*, 1997) updated **Kurosawa Akira's** *Stray Dog* (*Nora inu*, 1949) to a post-**Aum** landscape, following a detective on the trail of a mysterious assassin after he is wounded and his gun is stolen during the arrest of a fanatical religious cult leader. The female-oriented romantic drama *Shady Grove* (1999) portrays a young woman forced to confront her past after her boyfriend splits up with her. And yet, as a highly respected critic and essayist who has written prodigiously about film history and theory and novelized a number of his own films, Aoyama has generally been viewed as an art-house director, despite more conventional works such as *Chinpira* (1996), a remake of a 1984 film of the same name directed by Kawashima Tôru, which follows the fates of two low-ranking gangsters on the periphery of the *yakuza* after they incur the ire of their gang boss.

Aoyama has also made more experimental works, such as *To the Alley: Kenji Nakagami's Surviving Film* (*Roji e: Nakagami Kenji no nokoshita firumu*, 2001), constructed around a surviving piece of 16mm footage shot by the *burakumin* writer Nakagami Kenji (1946–1992), depicting the impoverished Kyushu landscapes in which he grew up (see YANAGIMACHI MITSUO), and *Eli Eli Lema Sabachtani?* (2005), a tale set in the near future

about two experimental noise musicians who possibly possess the cure to a mysterious virus sweeping the country that causes its victims to commit suicide. He has also made the music documentaries *June 12, 1998: The Edge of Chaos* (*Kaosu no fuchi*, 1999), a record of a solo concert given in Tokyo by the British experimental composer Chris Cutler, and *Ajima Song: Uehara Tomoko Voice of the Heavens* (*Ajimâ no uta: Uehara Tomoko tenjô no uta-goe*, 2003), a portrait of the Okinawan singer of the title. See also HASUMI SHIGEHICO.

ART THEATRE GUILD (ÂTO SHIATÂ GIRUDO, アート・シアター・ギルド). The Art Theatre Guild, commonly abbreviated ATG, was founded on 15 November 1961 with the goal of introducing high-quality foreign art cinema releases to Japan, as well as providing exhibition possibilities for films from independent directors within the country. Its establishment was made possible due to the efforts of a small circle of film critics and industry figures, notably **Kawakita Nagamasa** and Kawakita Kashiko of Toho-Towa Company, with substantial funding and several theaters provided by **Toho**. The first president of ATG was Iseki Tsuneo of the Sanwa Kyôgô entertainment company, a close associate of Toho vice president Mori Iwao. ATG entered into production in the latter half of the 1960s and played a crucial role in the history of the **Japanese New Wave**.

With the existence of import quotas and the dominance of the major studios during the 1950s, there had been little opportunity for Japanese audiences to see the more experimental, less commercial works of renowned foreign directors such as Ingmar Bergman, Luis Buñuel, Jean-Luc Godard, or Satyajit Ray. By 1962, with the help of Toho, ATG had established a small chain of 10 cinemas across the country for just this purpose. Their flagship venue, the Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka, managed by Kuzui Kinshirô, also staged live performances and acted as a social nexus for those in the artistic community, and as such, made a contribution in consolidating Shinjuku's status as the center of Tokyo's avant-garde arts scene in the 1960s.

The first ATG release was the Polish film *Mother Joanna of the Angels* (1961), directed by Jerzy Kawalerowicz, which was followed by a range of foreign titles, both contemporary, such as Jean Cocteau's *Le Testament d'Orphée* (1960), Ingmar Bergman's *Wild Strawberries* (1957), Luis Buñuel's *Viridiana* (1961), and John Cassavetes' *Shadows* (1959), and older titles that had not yet been shown in Japan, like Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin* (1925), *Alexander Nevsky* (1938), and *Ivan the Terrible* (1945). ATG also distributed independent Japanese productions, including **Teshigahara Hiroshi's** *Pitfall* (*Otoshiana*, 1962), **Shindô Kaneto's** *The Man* (*Ningen*, 1962), **Hani Susumu's** *She and He* (*Kanojo to kare*, 1963), Kuroki Kazuo's *Silence*

Has No Wings (*Tobenai chinmoku*, 1966), and **Mishima Yukio's** *Patriotism* (*Yûkoku*, 1966).

In 1967, Kuzui Kinshirô expanded ATG's activities into production, providing financing for a number of prominent independent directors of the period, although budgets were limited to only ¥10 million at a time when typical commercial studio films would cost ¥40–50 million. Its first such project was **Imamura Shôhei's** *A Man Vanishes* (*Ningen jôhatsu*, 1967), then **Ôshima Nagisa's** *Death by Hanging* (*Kôshikei*), produced the following year. Ôshima was involved in a total of five such coproductions between ATG and his own company, Sôzôsha, between 1968 and 1972, including *Boy* (*Shônen*, 1969) and *The Ceremony* (*Gishiki*, 1971). In August 1967, ATG opened a second exhibition space in the basement of the Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka, dedicated to underground films and live performances. The Theatre Sasori-za or Scorpio Theatre, a name suggested by Mishima and inspired by the Kenneth Anger film *Scorpio Rising* (1964), was inaugurated with a screening of Adachi Masao's experimental non-narrative film *Galaxy* (*Gingakei*, 1967). Other ATG productions of the period, many of which were included in *Kinema Junpô's* Best Ten lists and screened widely at overseas festivals, include Matsumoto Toshio's *Funeral Parade of Roses* (*Bara no sôretsu*, 1969), **Shinoda Masahiro's** *Double Suicide* (*Shinjû-ten Amijima*, 1969), Kuroki Kazuo's *Evil Spirits of Japan* (*Nihon no akuryô*, 1970), and **Terayama Shûji's** *Throw Away Your Books, Lets Go into the Streets* (*Sho o suteyo, machi e deyô*, 1971).

While ATG continued to provide a means for established studio directors like **Ichikawa Kon**, **Masumura Yasuzô**, and Okamoto Kihachi to undertake more challenging projects that would not be produced by the majors, in the wake of the **Asama Mountain Lodge Incident**, the type of challenging, politically charged, and formally inventive art cinema it produced or distributed began to fall out of favor. By 1974, ATG was suffering severe financial difficulties and had closed its 10 cinemas across the country, leaving only the Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka. Kuzui Kinshirô resigned his position as ATG's main producer and was replaced by Taga Shôsuke, a former scriptwriter at **Shochiku**. During the 1970s, ATG continued to produce new works by established directors, notably Kuroki Kazuo, whose films of the period include *The Assassination of Ryoma* (*Ryôma no ansatsu*, 1974), *Preparations for the Festival* (*Matsuri no junbi*, 1975), and *Lost Love* (*Genshiryoku sensô*, 1978), and Okamoto Kihachi, who made *Battle Cry* (*Tokkan*, 1975). The experimental theater director Kara Jurô directed *The Sea of Genkai* (*Ninkyô gaiden: genkai nada*, 1976), while the company also allowed for several of **Nikkatsu's** directors to make films outside the **Roman Porno** genre: Sone Chûsei's *Case of the Disjointed Murder* (*Furenzoku satsujin jiken*, 1977); Yamaguchi Seiichirô's *Tokoku Kitamura: Our Song of Winter* (*Kitamura Tôkoku: Waga*

fuyu no uta, 1977), and Ohara Kôyû's *Youth Part 2 (Seishun Part II)*, 1979). Taga also produced *Young Murderer (Seishun no satsujinsha)*, 1976), an adaptation of a short story by Nakagami Kenji (see also AOYAMA SHINJI; YANAGIMACHI MITSUO), which was the filmmaking debut of Hasegawa Kazuhiko, a Nikkatsu scriptwriter and assistant director whose only other film was the non-ATG production *The Man Who Stole the Sun (Taiyô o nusunda otoko)*, 1979), about a disillusioned high-school science teacher who holds the government to ransom with an **atomic bomb** he has made himself. The only ATG production with a non-Japanese director, *Keiko*, was made by the French Canadian Claude Gagnon in 1979, with an all-Japanese cast. Compared with ATG's heyday in the late-1960s, few of these films registered strongly in overseas markets.

In 1979, Sasaki Shirô took over as company president, adopting the policy of searching for young and relatively unknown filmmakers, many recruited from the adult filmmaking world of **pink film** and Roman Porno, and coproducing several works with the **Director's Company** in the 1980s. Standout productions from this period include Izutsu Kazuyuki's *Empire of Kids (Gaki teikoku)*, 1981), Negishi Kichitarô's *Distant Thunder (Enrai)*, 1981), Takahashi Banmei's *Tattoo (Irezumi ari)*, 1982), **Nakagawa Nobuo's** final film *The Living Koheiji (Ikiteiru koheiji)*, 1982), Morita Yoshimitsu's hit comedy *Family Game (Kazoku gômu)*, 1983), **Ishii Sôgo's** *Crazy Family (Gyakufunsha kazoku)*, 1984), **Itami Jûzô's** *The Funeral (Osôshiki)*, 1984), Ikeda Toshiharu's *Mermaid Legend (Ningyo densetsu)*, 1984), and **Terayama Shûji's** *Farewell to the Ark (Saraba hakobune)*, 1984).

The last ATG production was Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's *Bound for the Fields, the Mountains and the Seacoast (No-yuki yama-yuki umibe-yuki)*, 1986), although the company continued to function as a distributor, slowly winding down its activities before its final release of **Shindô Kaneto's** *The Strange Tale of Oyuki (Bokutô kidan)* in 1992.

ASAMA MOUNTAIN LODGE INCIDENT (ASAMA SANSÔ JIKEN, 浅間山荘事件). The Asama Mountain Lodge Incident was a 10-day stand-off between the police and five members of the radical left-wing group the United Red Army (Rengô Sekigun, or URA), after the latter occupied a tourist lodge at the foot of Mount Asama, near the resort town of Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture, and held the lodgekeeper's wife hostage. The siege began on 10 February 1972, following a violent ideological purge that had resulted in the deaths of 14 members of the group at their training camp, and ended on 28 February with the police storming the lodge. During the siege, two police officers were killed and a further 15 injured by the radicals' gunfire, and one civilian was fatally wounded. The siege was the most widely viewed tele-

vised event in Japanese broadcast history, with the capture and arrest of the radicals watched by an estimated 89.7 percent of the population. The incident and the subsequent Lod Airport massacre, perpetrated by three members of the closely linked Japanese Red Army (Nihon Sekigun, or JRA) in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 30 May the same year, marked an end to the radical left-wing student movements that had dominated the 1960s (*see* ANPO AGREEMENT).

The Asama Mountain Lodge Incident and the events leading up to it have been revisited on film on several occasions. The preceding internal purges of the group formed the basis for Kumakiri Kazuyoshi's violent cult movie *Kichiku: Banquet of the Beasts* (*Kichiku dai enka*, 1997) and the more reflective *Rain of Light* (*Hakari no ame*, 2001), directed by former **pink film** director Takahashi Banmei, while in the same year Harada Masato made the *The Choice of Hercules* (*Totsunyûseyo! Asama sansô jiken*), starring **Yakusho Kôji**, which depicted the siege solely through the eyes of the police. The definitive account of the story to date is *United Red Army* (*Jitsuroku rengô sekigun: Asama sansô e no michi*, 2007), made by a former mentor of Takahashi's, **Wakamatsu Kôji**.

ASANO TADANOBU (浅野忠信, 1973–). Born Satô Tadanobu in Yokohama to a Japanese father and a Japanese–American mother of Navajo Native American lineage, Asano Tadanobu is an actor whose performances in both offbeat independent films and major studio productions have seen him described as the “Johnny Depp of Japan.” He has starred in numerous titles by directors known in the West, including **Ishii Sôgo**'s *Labyrinth of Dreams* (*Yume no ginga*, 1997), *Gojoe* (*Gojô reisenki: Gojoe*, 2000), *Electric Dragon 80,000 V* (2001), and *Dead End Run* (2003); **Kore'eda Hirokazu**'s *Distance* (*Disutansu*, 2001); **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**'s *Bright Future* (*Akarui mirai*, 2003); **Miike Takashi**'s *Ichi the Killer* (*Koroshiya Ichi*, 2001); and **Tsukamoto Shinya**'s *Vital* (*Vitâru*, 2004).

Asano began his career in television, his first appearance being in the long-running TBS (Tokyo Broadcasting System) high-school drama series *Kinpachi-sensei* (*Sannen B-gumi Kinpachi-sensei*, 1979–) for a short period in 1988. His first film credit was for a supporting role in *Swimming Upstream* (*Bataashi kingyo*, 1990), a high-school romance directed by Matsuoka Jôji, though his first major role was in Iwai Shunji's Fuji TV television movie *Fried Dragon Fish*, broadcast in 1993 but released theatrically in 1996, in which he played a tropical fish collector involved in the smuggling of a valuable Arowana dragon fish. In 1994, he appeared in the same director's *Picnic*, in which three psychiatric patients escape from an asylum, though the film was not released until the same weekend as *Fried Dragon Fish* in 1996, its release held up until a violent scene had been removed. In 1995, he married

the film's costar, the J-Pop singer and actress Chara, with whom he had two children, though the couple divorced in 2009. He also appeared alongside Chara in Iwai's *Swallowtail Butterfly* (*Suwarôteiru*, 1996), a 149-minute urban fairytale about immigrants living illegally in a shantytown in Tokyo.

Following a minor appearance in Kore'eda's *Maborosi* (*Maboroshi no hikari*, 1995), Asano first gained major critical attention as one of the violent, directionless youths in **Aoyama Shinji's** *Helpless* (1996), released theatrically a month after *Fried Dragon Fish* and *Picnic*. He later appeared in Aoyama's *Eli Eli Lema Sabachtani?* (2005) and *Sad Vacation* (*Saddo bakeishon*, 2007). Other noteworthy films in the early part of his career include Isaka Satoshi's critique of the television news media, *Focus* (1996); *Love & Pop* (*Rabu & Poppu*, 1998), an adaptation of a Murakami Ryû novel about the *enjo kôsai* ("compensated dating") phenomenon, shot on digital video and the first live-action feature directed by Anno Hideaki, better known for *anime* such as the *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (*Shin Seiki Evangerion*, 1995–1996) television series; and Ishii Katsuhito's cult *yakuza* movies *Shark Skin Man* and *Peach Hip Girl* (*Samehada otoko to momojiri onna*, 1998) and *Party 7* (2000).

Asano demonstrated his wider acting range playing a member of the *Shin-sengumi* in **Ôshima Nagisa's** *Gohatto* (1999); a suicidal salaryman in Sômai Shinji's final film, the road movie *Kaza-hana* (2000); Kitano Takeshi's nemesis in his new version of *Zatoichi* (*Zatôichi*, 2003); and as a former student of Nogami Shigeru, the professor whose imprisonment for his opposition to the Japanese government's invasion of Manchuria provided the material for **Yamada Yôji's** *Kabei: Our Mother* (*Kâbê*, 2008). Other cult hits he has appeared in include Sekiguchi Gen's comic caper movie *Survive Style 5+* (*Sabaibu sutairu faibu purasu*, 2004), Ishii Katsuhito's *A Taste of Tea* (*Cha no aji*, 2004), and *Funky Forest: The First Contact* (*Naisu no mori: The First Contact*, 2005), and he has played the linking character in the four stories of the **J-Horror** omnibus *Rampo Noir* (*Rampo jigoku*, 2004), based on the works of **Edogawa Rampo**.

Asano has appeared in a number of foreign productions, including Hou Hsiao-hsien's homage to the films of **Ozu Yasujirô**, *Café Lumière* (*Kôhî jikô*, 2003), a Japanese–Taiwanese coproduction released by Shochiku to mark the centenary of the director's birth; *Last Life in the Universe* (*Ruang rak noi nid mahasan*, 2003) and *Invisible Waves* (2006), by the Thai filmmaker Pen-Ek Ratanaruang; and as Ghengis Khan in the Russian production *Mongol* (2007), directed by Sergei Bodrov. He has also directed the omnibus films *Tori* (*Tôri*, 2004) and *R246 Story* (2008).

ATOMIC BOMB (GENBAKUDAN, 原子爆弾). At 8.15 a.m. on 6 August 1945, after an intense six-month fire-bombing campaign of major Japanese

cities, the first atomic bomb to be deployed in a wartime situation, nicknamed “Little Boy,” was dropped on the city of Hiroshima from the U.S. bomber *Enola Gay*. Estimates of the exact death toll vary, though official figures put the number of civilian casualties at approximately 140,000, with 48,000 of the city’s 76,000 buildings completely destroyed. The attack was followed on 9 August with the dropping of “Fat Man” on Nagasaki by the bomber *Bockspur*, with similarly catastrophic results. On 15 August, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan’s surrender to the Allied forces, bringing an end to World War II (see WAR AND FILM). By 1950, the radioactive aftereffects had claimed a total of 200,000 victims in Hiroshima alone, lingering on to blight the city’s *hibakusha* blast survivors and generations of their bloodline with a host of radiation-induced sicknesses, including blindness, liver disorders, chronic fatigue, leukemia, and numerous types of cancer.

The first footage of the aftereffects of the bomb was filmed by Itô Sueo, who headed to Hiroshima on 7 September and was joined by a small film-making unit from the Japan Film Company (*Nippon Eigasha*), or Nichiei, where he was employed. The exhaustive five-hour record that resulted, *The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (*Hiroshima, Nagasaki ni okeru genshibakudan no kôka*), was assembled under the supervision of the General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (GHQ SCAP) and was duly confiscated by the Americans and sent to the Pentagon. It remained unseen in Japan until a 16mm print made of the original film was returned to the Education Ministry in 1967. Footage from the film is regularly included in documentaries about the bombings.

Under the Occupation, references to the atomic bombings were barred from released films, although curiously **Shimizu Hiroshi** was able to include one scene set among the ruins of Hiroshima in his **independent production** *Children of the Beehive* (*Hachi no su no kodomotachi*, 1948). Shortly after the Occupation had ended came the release of *Children of Hiroshima* (*Genbaku no ko*, 1952), directed by **Shindô Kaneto** and produced independently through Kindai Eiga Kyôkai, the company he founded with the director Yoshimura Kôzaburô in 1950, which was based on a series of short stories written by the young survivors of the attack. The film competed at Cannes in 1953 and was the first fictional film to deal directly with the subject. Born in Hiroshima, Shindô returned to his hometown in the later films *Mother* (*Haha*, 1963), about a young woman’s decision to have a child in the wake of the destruction, and *Sakuratai 8.6* (*Sakura-tai chiru*, 1988), about a theatrical troupe that arrives the day before the bomb is dropped. In 1959, he also made *Lucky Dragon No. 5* (*Daigo Fukuryûmaru*), based on the incident in which a Japanese fishing boat was exposed to radioactive fallout following U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, which also inspired *Godzilla* (1954), the first *kaijû eiga* directed by **Honda Ishirô**.

In 1959, the French film *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (1959), directed by Alain Resnais from a screenplay by Marguerite Duras, intercut scenes of the bombing with a love story between a French actress (Emmanuele Riva), who is playing a nurse in a film being shot in Hiroshima, and a Japanese architect, played by Okada Eiji. This highly regarded title provided the direct inspiration for the 2001 Japanese film *H Story*, in which Suwa Nobuhiro played himself as a filmmaker attempting to remake Resnais's film in a new version starring Béatrice Dalle.

Other Japanese films to focus on the atomic bombings or its repercussions include **Kurosawa Akira's** *I Live in Fear* (*Ikimono no kiroku*, 1955), about a foundry owner who wishes to relocate his family to Brazil to avoid the possibility of a further nuclear attack on Japan, and *Rhapsody in August* (*Hachigatsu no kyôshikyoku*, 1991), which takes place over one summer as an old woman whose husband was killed in Nagasaki is visited by her children and grandchildren; Imai Tadashi's *A Story of Pure Love* (*Jun'ai monogatari*, 1957), a tragic romance in which one of the protagonists is a *hibakusha*, a theme also tackled in Kurahara Koreyoshi's *A Record of Love and Death* (*Ai to shi no kiroku*, 1966), for **Nikkatsu** (Kurahara later codirected, along with Roger Spottiswoode, the Canadian Japanese television production of *Hiroshima* [1995], a dramatic reconstruction of the decision-making process leading to the dropping of the bomb); Yoshimura Kôzaburô's *A Night to Remember* (*Sonoyoru wa wasurenai*, 1962) for **Daiei**; the *anime* features *Barefoot Gen* (*Hadashi no gen*, Masaki Mori, 1983) and *Barefoot Gen 2* (*Hadashi no gen 2*, Hirata Toshio, 1986), based on the *manga* by Nakazawa Keiji detailing his childhood in Hiroshima, which had already been adapted by Yamada Tengô as a live-action trilogy comprised of *Barefoot Gen* (*Hadashi no gen*, 1976); *Barefoot Gen: Explosion of Tears* (*Hadashi no Gen: Namida no baku-hatsu*, 1977) and *Barefoot Gen: Battle of Hiroshima* (*Hadashi no Gen Part 3: Hiroshima no tataikai*, 1980); *Black Rain* (*Kuroi ame*, 1989), adapted by **Imamura Shôhei** from the novel by Ibuse Masuji (1898–1983) about a family's attempt to marry off their *hibakusha* daughter; Shibata Gô's *NN-891102* (1999), an inventive *jishu eiga* in which a sound engineer who witnessed the explosion as a child strives to re-create its effect; Yoshida Kijû's *Women in the Mirror* (*Kagami no onnatachi*, 2003), which links three generations of women in Hiroshima back to the bomb; and Kuroki Kazuo's *Tomorrow/Ashita* (*Tomorrow: Ashita*, 1988), following the events of an ordinary day in the life of a Nagasaki family up until the explosion, and *The Face of Jizo* (*Chichi to kuraseba*, 2004), in which **Miyazawa Rie** plays a young woman confronting the ghosts of her past following the attack.

References to the atomic bomb appear in a large number of further films, such as **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Jingi naki*

tatakai, 1973), in which the devastation of Hiroshima creates a postwar vacuum that is quickly exploited by local *yakuza* factions; Suzuki Norifumi's *School of the Holy Beast* (*Seijû gakuen*, 1974), a **Toei** exploitation movie set in a convent in which the bombing of Nagasaki, a historic stronghold for Catholicism, is invoked to explain the deviant acts of the head priest; and **Aoyama Shinji's** *An Obsession* (*Tsumetai chi*, 1997), in which a serial killer is driven to murder due to his impending death from congenital leukemia.

ATSUGI TAKA (厚木たか, 1907–1998). A pioneering **woman** filmmaker, Atsugi Taka began her career in **documentary** films after attending the first public meeting of the **Proletarian Film League of Japan** (Prokino) on 31 May 1930. Born Okada Matsue, she adopted her professional name to mask her identity from the police, who were clamping down on leftist political groups such as this. She spent her lifetime involved with left-wing causes, with her films manifesting a particular focus on issues of gender. When Prokino disbanded in 1934 due to police pressure, she joined P.C.L. (see TOHO COMPANY) and worked on wartime documentary shorts as a screenwriter, including *Record of a Kindergarten Teacher* (*Aru hobo no kiroku*, Mizuki Sôya, 1942); *Factory Changeover* (*Tenkan kôjô*, Morinaga Kenjirô, 1944), about the switch of factories from civilian to military use; and *We're Working So Hard* (*Watashitachi wa sonna ni hataraiteiru*, Mizuki Sôya, 1945), about women working in a clothing factory. She translated the British filmmaker and theorist Paul Rotha's book *Documentary Film* (1935) into Japanese in 1937, influencing the course of Japanese documentary film, and published her *Memoirs of a Female Documentarist* (*Josei dokyumentarisuto no kaisô*) in 1991.

AUM SHINRIKYÔ (OUMU SHINRIKYÔ, オウム真理教). A renegade religious cult founded in 1984 by Asahara Shôkô, Aum Shinrikyô (Aum Supreme Truth) became notorious when on 20 March 1995 several of its members unleashed Sarin nerve gas on the Tokyo Subway System, leading to the deaths of 12 passengers, with up to an estimated 5,000 suffering from aftereffects. The reasons for the attack have never been fully explained, yet the incident, which occurred shortly after the Great Hanshin Earthquake that struck Kobe on 19 January, sent shock waves throughout the nation, highlighting the vulnerability of a society that for the past few decades had known only peace and prosperity. Asahara and a number of his disciples were subsequently arrested, with 11 cult members, including Asahara, currently facing execution. Aum, which at its height is believed to have had around 17,000 members in Japan and a further 10,000 in Russia, Germany, and the United States, was also linked with an earlier gas attack in the city of Matsumoto in Nagano

Prefecture on 28 June 1994, as well as the murder of Sakamoto Tsutsumi, a lawyer working on a highly publicized lawsuit against the cult, and his family on 31 October 1989. Due to Japan's constitutional rights of freedom of religious expression, the cult has continued to function under the new name of Aleph since 2000, though despite its public renunciations of violence, it remains under police surveillance. Its remaining members have expressed a complete lack of awareness of the murderous intentions of its leaders.

A number of **Aoyama Shinji's** films in the late 1990s contained heavy allusions to or metaphors for the cult and the attacks, notably the thriller *An Obsession* (*Tsumetai chi*, 1997), the horror film *EM Embalming* (1999) and, in a more oblique fashion, *Eureka* (*Yurika*, 2001). Ishii Teruo's 1999 remake of **Nakagawa Nobuo's** *Jigoku* (1960) depicted an evil religious cult led by a blind, bearded guru obviously modeled on Asahara; Kumai Kei's *Darkness in the Light* (*Nihon no kuroi natsu: Enzai*, 2001) gave an account of the arrest of an innocent man in the wake of the Matsumoto attack; Zeze Takahisa's *Tokyo X Erotica* (*Tōkyō X erotika: shibareru kairaku*, 2001), the first **pink film** to be shot on digital video, featured a character who dies in the gas attacks; Kore'eda Hirokazu's documentary-styled *Distance* (*Disutansu*, 2001) followed the relatives of members of the fictional Ark of Truth cult on the anniversary of their collective suicide; and in *Canary* (*Kanaria*, 2004), Shiota Akihiko took as his focus the plight of a 12-year-old boy raised in the compound of a cult named Nirvana following the suicide of his mother, one of the perpetrators of a poisonous gas attack, using the scenario to draw broader conclusions about collective responsibility and the socialization of children.

The cult itself was also the focus of two **documentaries** directed by Mori Tatsuya, *A* (1998) and *A2* (2001), which interviewed the remaining members of Aum in the years after the attacks to explore such issues as the sensationalist reporting of the incident by the media and rights of religious and political expression, while the novelist Murakami Haruki's *Underground* (*Andōgu-raundo*), a nonfiction book featuring the testimonies of both cult members and the passengers who survived the attack, was published in Japanese in 1997 (translation published in 2000).

B

BANDÔ TSUMASABURÔ (阪東妻三郎, 1901–1953). Born in Tokyo as Tamura Denkichirô and also popularly referred to by the abbreviated nickname Bantsuma, Bandô Tsumasaburô was the most famous Japanese performer of the silent era, known especially for his energetic sword-fighting scenes in his *jidai-geki* roles, and appearing in more than 200 films throughout his lifetime. He began his career as an apprentice to the Kabuki actor Kataoka Nizaemon (1858–1934) in 1916, after graduating from elementary school, though he soon left to found and perform with his own troupe. He left the stage to pursue a career in film after he was scouted by the Makino Motion Picture Company (see MAKINO SHÔZÔ), appearing in *Jirocho of Shimizu* (*Shimizu Jirochô*) in 1923.

Bandô made around 50 films as one of Makino's entourage of popular *chanbara* stars, playing alongside others, such as Ichikawa Hataya, in films including *The Fresh Blood Handprint* (*Senketsu no tegata*, Numata Kôroku, 1923), *Kozusume Pass* (*Kozusume-toge*, Numata Kôroku, 1923), and *Mito Kômon* (Nagao Shiroku, 1923). He starred in a further dozen or so films at Tôa Kinema, after it absorbed Makino's company in 1924, including *Backward Flow* (*Gyakuryû*, Futagawa Buntarô, 1924), *Kageboshi*, *Noble Thief of Edo* (*Edo kaizokuden Kageboshi*, Futagawa Buntarô, 1925, two parts), and a new version of *Jirocho of Shimizu* (*Shimizu Jirochô*, 1924), this time appearing in the title role, before leaving to establish his own **independent production** company, Bantsuma Pro, in September 1925. His company's first productions were *The Foreign Girl and the Samurai* (*Ijin musume to bushi*, Inoue Kintarô, 1925) and *Orochi* (Futagawa Buntarô, 1925), and Bantsuma Pro went on to produce almost a hundred films, including *A Royalist* (*Sonnô*, Shiba Seika, 1926), *Ryôma Sakamoto* (*Sakamoto Ryôma*, Edamasa Yoshirô, 1928), and *Koina no Ginpei: Migratory Snowbird* (*Koina no Ginpei: Yuki no wataridori*, Miyata Tomikazu, 1931).

Like so many of the companies established by performers to produce their own work, Bantsuma Pro suffered with the transition to sound, especially as fans were disappointed with the actor's high-pitched voice. Not long after the failure of Bandô's first talkie, *Tsuruchiyo Niino* (*Niinô*

Tsuruchiyo, Itô Daisuke, 1935), the company was dissolved, and in 1937, the actor entered **Nikkatsu**. His notable roles for that company include playing the lead in Makino Masahiro's new version of *Chuji Kunisada* (*Kunisada Chûji*, 1937), about the celebrated Edo-period outlaw; appearing alongside a number of contemporary stars from his early days at Makino Motion Picture Company, including Arashi Kanjûrô, Kataoka Chiezô, and Tsukigata Ryûnosuke, in a new two-part version of ***Chûshingura***, directed in 1938 by Ikeda Tomiyasu; and playing the general in Taguchi Satoshi's **war film** *General, Staff and Soldiers* (*Shôgun to sanbô to hei*, 1942). When government restructuring of the industry resulted in Nikkatsu's production arm being split off in 1942, Bandô continued at the new company **Daiei**, his best-known starring role being in Inagaki Hiroshi's *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*, 1943). However, while Bandô continued to act in the immediate postwar period, it was in a different kind of film than those with which he established his career, due to the Occupation authorities' ban on the production of *jidai-geki*. In *A Broken Drum* (*Yabure-daiko*, 1949), directed by **Kinoshita Keisuke** for Shochiku, he played a *nouveaux riche* patriarch who has made a fortune out of the construction industry yet continues to run his business along feudal lines.

Bandô died of a cerebral hemorrhage on 7 July 1953, while filming *The Raging Lion* (*Abare-jishi*), directed by Ôsone Tatsuo. His three sons, Tamura Takahiro (1928–2006), Tamura Masakazu (1943–), and Tamura Ryô (1946–), also established successful screen acting careers. In 1980, the **benshi** Matsuda Shunsui made the **documentary** *Bantsuma: The Life of Tsumasaburo Bando* (*Bantsuma: Bandô Tsumasaburô no shôgai*).

BEAT TAKESHI (BÎTO TAKESHI, ビートたけ). See KITANO TAKESHI.

BENSHI (弁士). The *benshi* were film narrators who played an integral role during performances in the silent era. Their commentaries (known as *kat-suben*) accompanied factual and fiction films alike, both foreign and domestically produced, explaining elements of the plot and assuming the roles of the characters in the films. Top performers such as Tokugawa Musei and Matsui Suisei provided a bigger draw for audiences than the stars or the directors of the films they performed with, and their commentaries were also sold as stand-alone recordings.

Although similar commentators existed in other countries, vocal accompaniment to silent film performances died out in Europe and America in the early 1910s, and the phenomenon is often considered unique to Japan in terms of the longevity and dominance of the *benshi* as an institution and the discourse surrounding their role in the industry. It is worth noting that both

Taiwan and Korea, both Japanese colonies during the silent period, also had their equivalents.

Though the *benshi* emerged with the early importation of foreign films, necessitating the need for additional exposition for Japanese viewers unfamiliar with foreign history or cultural practices, many consider their move to a more central position in the early exhibition culture as connected with the country's long tradition of spoken performance arts like *kôdan* history storytelling and comic *rakugo*, and the theatrical practice of *gidayû* chanting in Bunraku puppet theater and Kabuki, in which a single off-stage narrator describes the scene and the emotions of the characters. While their narration in the 1910s utilized a style of delivery known as *kowairo* derived from Kabuki, the *benshi* soon developed their own trademark style of vocal inflection, similar to the enthusiastic patter of the carnival barker.

The prominence of the *benshi* in early film performances meant that their explanation was taken as a given by domestic filmmakers, who provided detailed story synopses for them to create their scripts from. Thus, aside from exceptional works such as *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*, 1926), the narrative of Japanese silent films was often only partially transmitted by the images on the screen alone, and viewing such works today without the spoken commentary only conveys part of the cinematic experience. As such there was strong opposition to the *benshi* in certain quarters, most notably from the **Pure Film Movement**, which saw them as an obstacle to the development of cinema in Japan as a stand-alone art form with self-contained narratives that could compete in global markets. The government censors also became increasingly aware of the commentators' power to force their own readings upon the films, especially factual ones, or misrepresent their meanings, and so the licensing of all *benshi* and the prevetting of their *katsuben* scripts was required.

The increased prevalence of written intertitles in such modernist works as those made at **Shochiku**'s Kamata studios in the early 1930s might have been an attempt by forward-looking filmmakers to eradicate the need for spoken interpretation. While many attribute Japanese cinema's slow conversion to talkies to the strong position that the unionized *benshi* held within the industry (silent films were still being produced in Japan until the latter half of the 1930s), another major contributory factor was the expense of replacing old projection equipment in cinemas across the nation with electric motor-driven projectors to ensure the standardized 24 frames-per-second rate necessary for sound film. In rural areas, *benshi* continued to ply their trade even after the war, as theater owners continued to screen silent films.

The *benshi* tradition has been preserved as a nostalgic cultural curio to this day due to the efforts of the organization Matsuda Film Productions (Matsuda

Eigasha), founded in 1952 by former child *benshi* Matsuda Shunsui with the aim of preserving and screening the country's silent film heritage. Unlike the commentators of the heyday of silent cinema, its most famous practitioner, Sawato Midori, who has performed regularly on Japanese television and at film events worldwide, is a **woman**.

C

CENSORSHIP. Film censorship in Japan is undertaken by the Commission for the Administration of the Motion Picture Code of Ethics, better known as *Eirin* (an abbreviation of *Eirin kanri iinkai*). This body was established in June 1949, during the Occupation, with its regulations modeled on America's Motion Picture Production Code. Any film intended for theatrical release must be submitted to the board to be classified and receive an official seal of approval in the form of a five-digit number. At present there are four classifications: General, for films suitable for all audiences; PG-12, for those not recommended for children under 12 unaccompanied by an adult; R-15, to which children under 15 are not admitted; and R-18, to which children under 18 are not admitted. Almost all of the titles classified as R-18, or *seijin eiga* (adult films), belong to the sex film genre known as **pink film**. An equivalent body for the video industry, the Nihon Ethics of Video Association (NEVA, or *Nihon bideo rinri kyôkai*, commonly known by the abbreviation of *Bide-rin*), was established in January 1977, while for the video gaming industry the Computer Entertainment Rating Organization (CERO, or *Tokutei hieiri katsudô hôjin konpyûta entâteinmento rêtingu kikô*) was established in June 2002.

Since the establishment of *Eirin*, subjects deemed unsuitable for cinematic depiction have not differed widely from those in other liberal democracies: extreme violence, drug abuse, and explicit depictions of sexual activity. Although Japan seems relatively tolerant of violent pornography compared with other countries, it has often seemed curious to outside commentators that until the mid-1990s the depiction of male and female genitalia and, more broadly speaking, pubic hair, was considered taboo. On film and video the offending areas were either cut entirely or, to preserve narrative continuity, more commonly obscured by optical blurring, digital mosaics, or scratched from the film's enamel with pins. In print, they were airbrushed from imported magazines or simply left un-inked in *manga* comic publications. The issue is not pubic hair in itself, but what it signifies, which is the violation of Article 175 of the Japanese Criminal Code relating to the Public Hygiene Law (*Kôshû eisei-hô*) and "public obscenity" (*waishetsu*). The context in

which such forbidden images occur does not seem to be important. Neither *Eirin* nor *Bide-rin* is concerned with bringing prosecutions against obscene works, which is the task of the police or customs officials. Their responsibilities are only classification and advising cuts.

That Japanese filmmakers have enjoyed almost full freedom of political expression within these guidelines is undoubtedly connected to the country's experiences of increasingly severe levels of censorship and centralized control imposed by the government and the Metropolitan Police Department in the years running up to and during World War II, and then during the Occupation. One of the earliest examples of such control was in 1908, when the French film *The Reign of Louis XVI* (*La Règne de Louis XVI*, 1905) was suppressed by the Metropolitan Police due to a scene of angry mobs attacking the royal palace, although in this instance distributors circumvented the ban by reissuing the film with a new title, *The Curious Story of North America: The Cave King* (*Hokubei kidan: Gankutsuo*), and changing the ***benshi*** script so that it told a completely different story about bandits in America. In November 1911, the first installment of the French serial about the outlaw gentleman detective and master of disguise *Zigomar* (directed by Victorin-Hippolyte Jasset) was imported to Japan and proved immensely popular, leading to a rush of Japanese films directly modeled on the character, including *Japanese Zigomar* (*Nihon Jigoma*, 1912) and *Continued: The Amended Record of Japanese Zigomar* (*Zoku Nihon Jigoma kaishinroku*, 1912), produced by the **Yoshizawa Company**, and *New Great Detective Zigomar* (*Shin Jigoma daitantei*, 1912) from **M. Pathé**. However, due to a media campaign led by the *Asahi Shinbun*, on October 1912 all films with the word “Zigomar” in the title, including the original French film's sequels, were banned due to concern about minors emulating the crimes portrayed.

The first laws directly concerned with the regulation of film were the Motion Pictures Control Regulations (*Katsudō shashin kōgyō torishimari kisoku*), or Order Number 12, issued by the Metropolitan Police in 1917, which provided guidelines regarding portrayals of the Imperial Family, treatments of the structure of the state and society, and depictions of crime and licentiousness, with all censorship to be conducted by local authorities. The first national law pertaining to film censorship was issued in 1925 by the Home Ministry as the Motion Pictures (Film) Censorship Regulations (*Katsudō shashin [firumu] kenetsu kiroku*), which elaborated on Order Number 12, mandating that scenes of lewdness, kissing, and rape were prohibited in domestic productions and to be excised from imported films. Theaters were required to have separate seating areas for men and women, and certain films were forbidden for viewers under the age of 15. Producers were required to

submit their completed films for government approval before release. The new film censorship regulations came in the same year as the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*), issued by the Ministry of Justice to control the activities of political subversives, which also prohibited the promulgation of works that could be considered leftist propaganda.

In March 1934, the Film Control Committee (*Eiga tôsei iinkai*) was established to oversee the import and export of films, requiring governmental approval for every film sent abroad and prohibiting imported films that insulted the national polity, the military, or Japan's foreign policy. With the passing of the **Film Law** in 1939, the government assumed almost total control of the industry. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, all foreign films were banned from import, with the exception of those from fellow Axis members Germany and Italy, or other sympathetic nations.

In the years immediately succeeding Japan's defeat in World War II, film censorship passed to the Occupation authorities, who brought their own set of guidelines. The most famous incidences of suppression in this immediate postwar period are *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeki*, 1946), directed by **Kamei Fumio**, and the footage shot by Itô Sueo that was to become *The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (*Hiroshima, Nagasaki ni okeru genshibakudan no kôka*, 1946/1967), both **documentaries** produced by **Iwasaki Akira** for Nichiei. *War and Peace* (*Sensô to heiwa*, 1947), directed by **Yamamoto Satsuo** with Kamei, was also heavily censored and its release delayed due to its perceived criticism of the Occupation in its story of a soldier who returns to Tokyo from China after the war and finds it difficult to cope with the new order.

Eirin was established in 1949, comprised of figures from within the Japanese film industry and operating separately from the American Occupation and Japanese government administration. During the early 1950s, increasing levels of sexual content were permitted in imported and domestically produced sex documentaries, a loophole exploited by some enterprising exhibitors appealing to the more prurient among the general public, which caused some concern to the police. At this time, *Eirin* was only concerned with regulating domestic productions; accounting for the popularity of less-inhibited foreign imports; and perhaps explaining the unprecedented nudity of *The Saga of Anatahan* (*Anatahan*, 1953), a Japanese production featuring an all-Japanese cast, but helmed by Josef von Sternberg, the Austrian director who had had a successful career in Hollywood. Bed scenes like those in **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Portrait of Madame Yuki* (*Yuki fujin ezu*, 1950), mixed bathing scenes as in **Naruse Mikio's** *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955), scenes of prostitutes at work, and nudity were all prohibitions that became slowly eroded as the decade wore on.

After Chiba Yasuki's *Temptation of Pleasure* (*Aku no tanoshisa*, 1954) elicited protests from local campaign groups across a number of regions of Japan, *Eirin* ushered in a more permissive age when it introduced the *seijin* (adult) category for films unsuitable for minors. Many of the earlier films marked with this new classification were foreign imports, mainly from France and the United States. Further watershed moments came in the mid-1950s, with increased levels of nudity from the new wave of "Flesh Group Actresses" (*nikutai-ha joyū*) employed by all the major studios, such as Kyōko Izumi at **Shochiku**; Hisako Tsukuba at **Nikkatsu**; and the star of the lascivious crime-thriller *Revenge of the Pearl Queen* (*Onna shinju-ō no fukushū*, 1956), Maeda Michiko, at Shintoho. A boom in "Red Light" (*akasen*) films, around the time of the Anti-Prostitution Law (*bai-shun bōshi-hō*) of 1956, including Mizoguchi's final film *Street of Shame* (*Akasen chitai*, 1956) and Kawashima Yūzō's *Suzaki Paradise: Red Signal* (1956), and the emergence of the *taiyōzoku* genre, were also causes of public concern. Another taboo to be broken included the first fictional representation of a Japanese emperor, with Arashi Kanjūrō playing the titular lead in Watanabe Kunio's *The Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo-Japanese War* (*Meiji tennō to nichiro dai-sensō*, 1957) for Shintoho.

With *Eirin* coming under criticism for lack of impartiality due to its close links to domestic producers, in 1956 it was reorganized to include nonindustry members, such as professors, lawyers, and teachers, and introduced a per-meter fee system for submitted films to increase its independence from the major studios. In 1959, customs authorities took issue with the import of the French film *The Lovers* (*Les Amants*, 1958), directed by Louis Malle, although the film was subsequently passed uncut by the commission. In 1962, it became mandatory for all films released in Japan to be passed through *Eirin*.

The film industry received its first major warning in 1962 for the independent film *Flesh Market* (*Nikutai ichiba*), now generally cited as the first example of the *eroduction*, or pink film. Within two days of opening in Tokyo, its run was stopped by the police, who seized all the prints and the original negative, in the first incident of its kind since the war. The film was subsequently reissued with cuts advised by *Eirin*, resulting in an explosion of independently produced low budget exploitation films over the next few years. The next major incident came with the release of *Black Snow* (*Kuroi Yuki*, 1965), in which the son of a prostitute murders an American G.I. An earlier film from its director, **Takechi Tetsuji**, entitled *Daydream* (1964), which had been distributed by **Shochiku**, had already caused a national scandal due to its salacious content. *Black Snow* had been passed by *Eirin*, but nonetheless, the director found himself the subject of an obscenity charge due a three-minute scene of a girl running naked around the U.S. Yokota Air Base after

being assaulted. Unlike *Flesh Market*, the motivation for the prosecution was considered political, due to its heavy criticism of the continuing American presence in Japan during the ongoing Vietnam War. “I admit there are many nude scenes in the film, but they are psychological nude scenes symbolizing the defenselessness of the Japanese people in the face of the American invasion” said the director in his defense, and he was cleared of all charges in 1967, albeit with his reputation in the industry tarnished.

Article 175 relating to public obscenity was once more invoked when Nikkatsu found itself in trouble shortly after the launch of its Roman Porno line. In 1972, police raided cinemas showing the double bill of *Love Hunter* (*Koi no karyûdo: Rabu hantâ*) and *Office Lady Diary: Scent of a She-Cat* (*OL nikki: Mesuneko no nioi*), later arresting several of the company’s staff and *Love Hunter*’s director, Yamaguchi Seiichirô, as well as several *Eirin* members. The case went to court in 1975, and all parties were cleared of all charges in 1980. By this time most of the major studios had moved toward stronger depictions of sexual activity within a mainstream context, though none violated the ban on pubic hair. Before the trial, in 1973 Yamaguchi made his last work for the studio, entitled *Love Hunter: Desire* (*Koi no karyûdo: Yokubô*), which featured a stripper arrested on public obscenity charges, similar to the real-life incident portrayed by Kumashiro Tatsumi in another Roman Porno title, *Sayuri Ichijô: Wet Lust* (*Ichijô Sayuri: Nureta Yokujô*, 1972), a fictionalized biopic about the celebrity stripper of the title, who was jailed in 1970 for her *tokudashi* (“special appearance”) performances. In 1976, Ôshima Nagisa delivered an overt attack on state censorship with *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korîda*). The finished film played widely overseas, but only screened in a heavily censored version in Japan. When a book containing the script and stills from the film was published, Ôshima and the book’s editor, Takemura Hajime, were put on trial for obscenity, in a case that lasted until 1982, when they were acquitted.

The early 1980s saw the emergence of adult video (*adaruto bideo*), commonly known as AV. Its main point of distinction from the pink and *Roman Porno* films is its presentational style, which strips all the cinematic artifice from its portrayal of sexual activity and presents its images as authentic. While theatrical sex films sometimes feature unsimulated intercourse, neither these nor the more cheaply produced AV productions can really be described as hardcore in the accepted sense of the word, in that the scenes of obscenity are all optically obscured from view, thus staying within obscenity laws.

A pivotal development in the easing of the restrictions came in 1985, when British director Michael Radford threatened to withdraw his adaptation of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1984) from the first Tokyo International Film Festival if it was to be screened in a censored version. Concerned about causing

an international commotion, the officials relented, and the film, along with Neil Jordan's *The Company of Wolves* (1984), played at the festival with their hair scenes unobscured, although these were fogged upon subsequent general release. In 1991, it became possible to show full female nudity in magazines and books. Over the course of the following decade, unobscured full nudity in imported foreign films such as Jacques Rivette's *La Belle Noiseuse* (1991), Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books* (1991), and Sally Potter's *Orlando* (1992) became more prevalent, as long as it was not of an overtly sexual nature.

Eirin has been generally more tolerant toward foreign art-house releases than domestic productions. The first Japanese film to put full-frontal nudity on the screen was Takahashi Banmei's *A New Love in Tokyo* (*Ai no shin-sekai*), released on 17 December 1994, although its pubic scenes featuring Suzuki Sawa and Kataoka Reiko had some artistic justification in that the film was based on the world-renowned photographer Nobuyoshi Araki's portraits of Tokyo prostitutes. The literary pedigree of Yokoyama Hiroto's adaptation of **Kawabata Yasunari's** *The House of the Sleeping Beauties* (*Nemureru bijo*, 1995) and Ikeda Toshiharu's **Toei** production of **Tanizaki Junichirō's** *The Key* (*Kagi*, 1997) was also a contributing factor in *Eirin* allowing the full-frontal shots to go unfogged. The passing of Ishii Takashi's big-budget sado-masochistic fantasy *Flower and Snake* (*Hana to hebi*) with only minor cuts in 2004 served as further evidence of how much more lenient the commission has become with regard to definitions of obscenity. Though Japanese filmmakers are now free to depict pubic hair, in reality this effectively restricts possibilities for domestic TV sales, and so it is not a widespread practice.

There are venues falling outside *Eirin's* remit in which unrated material can be screened, such as Image Forum (specializing in experimental films, or *jikken eiga*) and noncommercial exhibition spaces such as public halls, allowing the producer Arato Genjirō effectively to bypass the commission's demands for cuts to the scenes of sexual abuse in a remote Christian farming community in Ōmori Tatsushi's *Whispering of the Gods* (*Gerumaniumu no yoru*) in 2005 by screening the film in a purpose-built theater on the compound of the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno. The film was later resubmitted and passed by *Eirin* to screen in conventional cinemas.

For video releases of both mainstream films and AV, *Bide-rin* lifted its ban on pubic shots in June 2006, although images of aroused male genitalia, penetration, and explicit "open shots" of female pudenda are still deemed obscene and are therefore fogged. However, with the digital mosaics continuing to get smaller and finer, the pornographic video industry found itself the subject of criminal investigation, when on 23 August 2007, police raided approximately 20 locations suspected of either directly distributing or facilitating the distri-

bution of obscene materials, including several AV distributors and at least one major electronics chain that sold their products. Similar to the 1972 Nikkatsu Roman Porno incident, in which several *Eirin* officials were indicted, they also raided the offices of *Bide-rin* for its part in eroding censorship standards.

The issue of political freedom of expression came under the spotlight in 2008 with the release of *Yasukuni*, a documentary about the role of the controversial shrine for Japan's war dead, directed by Japan-based Chinese director Li Ying. The film found itself the subject of government debate after several exhibitors received threats from right-wing nationalists. The film's launch was rescheduled from 12 April to 3 May, when it opened under heavy police supervision, having already played at the Berlin Film Festival and 32nd Hong Kong International Film Festival, where it won the Humanitarian Award for Best Documentary. The incident is relevant to the discussion of censorship because it highlights that there are other agents beyond *Eirin* with the power to influence whether a film is screened or not.

CHAIN DRAMA (RENSA-GEKI, 連鎖劇). The Chain Drama was a mixed-media performance in which live theatrical plays by *Shinpa* troupes were supplemented by prefilmed scenes, usually of exteriors shot using the same actors, that exploited the novelty of moving pictures. The practice, which anticipated the first fully filmed dramas of **M. Pathé** and the **Yoshizawa** and **Yokota** companies circa 1907–1908, first appeared in 1904 and was highly popular by 1908, with an entire theater in Tokyo's Asakusa entertainment district dedicated to such performances. Sometimes the filmed footage would be edited together with filmed interior scenes filmed later and released as stand-alone films. It is worth noting that while theatrical traditions saw **women** performers absent from early film productions, they appeared to be relatively common in the filmed segments of the Chain Drama, which reached its peak popularity in 1916, until new censorship regulations brought about its end, although the practice did continue in some remote rural areas until 1922.

CHANBARA (チャンバラ). *Chanbara* is a subgenre of *jidai-geki*, or period dramas, with an emphasis on sword fighting and action. It comprised much of Japanese cinema's early output, notably the one-reelers directed by **Makino Shôzô** in the 1910s starring **Onoe Matsunosuke**. Important figures in the prewar period include the directors Makino Masahiro, who became head of Makino Productions upon the death of his pioneering father Shôzô in 1929, and Itô Daisuke, whose *Chuji's Travel Diary: Bloody Smile in Shinshu* (*Chûji tabi nikki: Shinshû kessho-hen*, 1927), one of many films based on the life of the Edo-period outlaw Kunisada Chûji (1810-1851), was named the best

Japanese film of its year by the magazine *Kinema Junpô*. Popular *chanbara* stars of the early era include Arashi Kanjûrô, **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, Kataoka Chiezô, and Hayashi Chôjirô (see HASEGAWA KAZUO).

During the 1950s, the popularity of *chanbara* was akin to that of the Western in the United States, with **Toei** in particular coming to specialize in such works, filmed by directors that included Matsuda Sadatsugu, Sasaki Yasushi, and **Uchida Tomu**, while **Shochiku** also produced *jidai-geki* program pictures from its second studio in Kyoto. However, the most internationally renowned examples are the films of **Kurosawa Akira** for **Toho**, which include *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), *The Hidden Fortress* (*Kakushi toride no san akunin*, 1958), and *Yojimbo* (*Yôjinbô*, 1961). Toho also produced the best-known films about the samurai hero Miyamoto Musashi (1584–1645), an oft-treated subject in the genre, with the first part of the *Samurai* trilogy (*Miyamoto Musashi*, 1954–1956) directed by Inagaki Hiroshi and starring **Mifune Toshirô** winning the first-ever Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1956.

As *jidai-geki* dramas increasingly became a regular fixture on television, **Daiei** produced the most characteristic cinematic work during the 1960s, with long-running serials such as *Zatoichi* (*Zatôichi*, 1962–), which featured **Katsu Shintarô** as an itinerant blind masseur with phenomenal sword-fighting skills; the 12 films in the *Sleepy Eyes of Death* (1966–1969) series, starring Ichikawa Raizô (1931–1969); and the eight-film *Band of Assassins* (*Shinobi no mono*, 1962–1966) ninja series, also starring Ichikawa. However, other companies also attempted to capitalize on this market, including **Shochiku**, with the four films in the *Zatoichi*-inspired *Crimson Bat* (*Mekura no Oichi monogatari*, 1969–1970) series, starring Matsuyama Yôko as the sightless female assassin known as Blind Oichi; and **Toho**, with the *Lone Wolf and Cub* (*Kozure ôkami*, 1972–1974) films, produced by Katsu Pro to promote Katsu Shintarô's elder brother Wakayama Tomisaburô. Toho also released a number of stand-alone Edo-period action dramas directed by Okamoto Kihachi, such as *Samurai* (1965), *Sword of Doom* (*Daibosatsu tôge*, 1966), and *Red Lion* (*Akage*, 1969), and two films by Kobayashi Masaki, *Harakiri* (*Seppuku*, 1962) and *Samurai Rebellion* (*Jôi-uchi: Hairiyô tsuma shimatsu*, 1967), while Kudô Eiichi continued the tradition at Toei with films such as *The Great Melee* (*Daisatsujin*, 1964).

From the 1970s, *chanbara* moved from an omnipresent staple of studio production to one-off event movies such as **Fukasaku Kinji's** *The Fall of Ako Castle* (*Akô-jô denzetsu*, 1978) and *Samurai Reincarnation* (*Makai tenshō*, 1981), the latter containing strong fantasy elements; Kurosawa's comeback films *Kagemusha* (1980) and *Ran* (1985); and **Kadokawa Haruki's** blockbuster *Heaven and Earth* (*Ten to Chi to*, 1990). In recent years, the

genre has been characterized by more postmodern titles, usually capitalizing on audience nostalgia for the genre's heyday, such as **Ishii Sôgo's** *Gojoe* (*Gojô reisenki: Gojoe*, 2000), Kitano Takeshi's 2003 remake of *Zatoichi*, and Miike Takashi's 2010 remake of Kudô's *Thirteen Assassins* (*Jûsannin no shikaku*, 1963). See also YAKUZA.

CHŪSHINGURA (忠臣蔵). *Chûshingura* refers to fictionalized versions of the *Genroku Akô jiken*, a true historical event that occurred when the *daimyô* of the small fiefdom of Akô, Asano Naganori (1667–1701), was ordered to commit *seppuku* by the fifth Tokugawa shogun Tsunayoshi, after assaulting a court official, Kira Yoshinaka. His 47 retainers spent a year plotting to kill Kira to avenge their master's death, before they themselves were commanded to kill themselves in accordance with samurai custom.

The legend, referred to in English as *The 47 Loyal Ronin*, is seen as epitomizing Japanese traditions of valor, loyalty, and self-sacrifice, and has been regularly retold in literature, Kabuki, Bunraku, television, and cinema, where it remains among the most frequently filmed historical stories. Straightforward *jidai-geki* versions are far too numerous to list in full, but the first listed version of the story is *Chûshingura Gotanme* (1907), which was essentially an excerpt from a Kabuki performance starring Kataoka Nizaemon XI and filmed by Konishi Tôru for the **Yoshizawa Company**. Other versions include **Makino Shôzô's** *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*), starring **Onoe Matsunosuke**, which was released in several installments between 1910 and 1912 (a compilation of the surviving fragments is considered to be the oldest example of Japanese fictional cinema in existence); *True Account of the 47 Loyal Ronin* (*Jitsuroku chûshingura*, 1921), directed by Nakagawa Jirô for Teikine; the first sound version of the classic tale, **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** two-part *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1932) for **Shochiku**; Inagaki Hiroshi's *Tenpo-Era Chûshingura* (*Tenpô Chûshingura*, 1934) for **Nikkatsu**, and a new star-studded, two-part version in 1938 directed by Ikeda Tomiyasu (see also BANDÔ TSUMASABURÔ); **Toho's** first version of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1939), released in two parts and directed by Takizawa Eisuke and Yamamoto Kajirô respectively; and another two-part version directed by **Mizoguchi Kenji** in 1941, produced by Shochiku for patriotic purposes under government encouragement.

The story remained off-limits for adaptation during the Occupation, until **Toei's** *Ako Castle* (*Akô-jô*, Hagiwara Ryô, 1952), starring Kataoka Chiezô, opened the way for other versions, including **Shintohto's** *Rare Story of the 47 Ronin* (*Chinsetsu Chûshingura*, 1953), directed by Saitô Torajirô; **Daiei's** *Vendetta of the Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, Watanabe Kunio, 1958); Toei's *The 47 Masterless Samurai* (*Chûshingura*, Matsuda Sadatsugu, 1959, two parts); a

further version of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* by Inagaki Hiroshi released in two parts in 1962; **Fukasaku Kinji's** *The Fall of Ako Castle* (*Akô-jô denzetsu*, 1978); and **Ichikawa Kon's** *47 Ronin* (*Shijûshichinin no shikaku*, 1994).

Apart from these more orthodox versions of the story, there have also been the animated feature *Doggy March* (*Wan wan Chûshingura*, 1963); the Toei **yakuza** film *Brave 47 Gangsters* (*Gangyu Chûshingura*, Ozawa Shigehiro, 1963); *Ninja Chushingura* (*Ninpô Chûshingura*, Hasegawa Yasuto, 1965); an erotic version distributed by the **pink film** company Kantô Movie, *Sexy Woman Chushingura* (*Shôwa Genroku: Oiroke onna Chûshingura*, Shindô Takae, 1969); corporate revisions of the tale in *Salaryman Chushingura* (*Sararîman Chûshingura*, Sugie Toshio, 1960–1961, two parts) and *Office Lady Chushingura* (*OL Chûshingura*, Suzuki Hikaru, 1997); and *Crest of Betrayal* (*Chûshingura gaiden: Yotsuya kaidan*, 1994), Fukasaku Kinji's combining of the legend with *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Tôkaidô Yotsuya kaidan*). See also HASEGAWA KAZUO; HORROR.

D

DAIEI MOTION PICTURE COMPANY (大映株式会社, DAIEI KABU-SHIKIGAISHA). Daiei was established under the name the Greater Japan Motion Picture Production Company (*Dai Nihon Eiga Seisaku Kabukishiki-gaisha*) in 1942, under the ordinance of the Japanese wartime government, as part of a massive restructuring of the 10 film companies then active in the film industry. It was created in order to stop the near monopoly of the market by the two largest companies of that time, **Shochiku** and **Toho**, through a merger between the nearly bankrupt **Nikkatsu** and the companies Shinkô Kinema and Daito, which left Nikkatsu to function as a separate entity solely in the capacity of exhibition and promotion while the new company took over its production arm. Nagata Masaichi (1906–1985), the former head of Shinkô's Kyoto studios, who held a controlling stake in the new company, was appointed managing director by the Information Bureau, while the right-wing novelist Kikuchi Kan (1888–1948) became the company's first president. It changed to its better-known name in 1945, and from 1947, having been forced under antitrust regulations to sever entirely its original connections with Nikkatsu, began to function as a completely autonomous private company in its own right under its new president, the newly promoted Nagata.

As well as inheriting the Tokyo and Kyoto studio facilities of Shinkô, Daito, and Nikkatsu, Daiei also retained their staff and contracted actors such as **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, who appeared in a number of Daiei's early productions, including Ushihara Kiyohiko's *Restoration Melody* (*Ishin no kyoku*, 1942) and Inagaki Hiroshi's *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*, 1943). Unsurprisingly, much of Daiei's earliest output was **war** propaganda pictures, such as the Information Bureau-planned *Thus Blew the Divine Wind* (*Kakute kamikaze wa fuku*, 1944), directed by Marune Santarô, and the anti-Western *The Slave Ship* (*Maria Rûzu-kô jiken: doreisen*, 1943), also directed by Marune and based on a historical incident publicized in Kikuchi Kan's book *Popular History of the Meiji Era*, in which the Japanese attempted to repatriate a number of Chinese laborers dying from the poor conditions onboard a Portuguese ship that had docked in Yokohama in 1872 while en route to work on the American transcontinental railroad.

Daiei proved particularly successful in the early 1950s at submitting its work to overseas festivals, with **Kurosawa Akira's** *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950), **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953), and **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*, 1953) all winning major awards internationally. Its Kyoto studios played host to the production of Josef von Sternberg's final film, *The Saga of Anatahan* (*Anatahan*, 1953), and in 1958, the company established the subsidiary Daiei Television specifically for television production. Daiei also obtained the Japanese distribution rights for Walt Disney's productions.

Major stars contracted to the company during the 1950s and 1960s include **Hasegawa Kazuo**, Ichikawa Raizô, **Kyô Machiko**, and Wakao Ayako, while directors who made their careers there include Misumi Kenji and **Masumura Yasuzô**. Noteworthy productions by the former include **horror** films such as a version of *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Yotsuya kaidan*, 1959); the three-part *The Great Buddha Pass* (*Daibosatsu-tôge*, 1960), starring Ichikawa Raizô and adapted by **Kinugasa Teinosuke** from the 41-volume historical novel of the same name written by Kaizan Nakazato (1885–1944), and previously filmed by, among others, **Uchida Tomu**; several entries in the long-running *chanbara* series *Zatoichi*, starring **Katsu Shintarô** as the blind masseur and master swordsman, beginning with *The Tale of Zatoichi* (*Zatôichi monogatari*, 1962); and the country's first 70mm production, *Buddha* (*Shaka*, 1961), based on the life of Siddhartha.

Throughout the 1960s, Daiei produced a number of other *chanbara* serials alongside *Zatoichi*, with one of the most popular being the long-running *Sleepy Eyes of Death* series, which began with Tanaka Tokuzô's *Sleepy Eyes of Death: The Chinese Jade* (*Nemuri kyôshirô: Sappôchô*, 1963) and ended with the loss of its star Ichikawa Raizô (1931–1969) to cancer at the young age of 37. It also produced *kaijû eiga*, notably the series featuring the giant flying turtle who first appeared in *Gamera* (*Daikaijû Gamera*), directed by Yuasa Noriaki in 1965, and became Daiei's trademark rival to Toho's *Godzilla*, and the trilogy of films set in the Edo period that began with Yasuda Kimiyoshi's *Daimajin* (1966).

However, despite following market trends by increasing the levels of female nudity, violence, and other adult subject matter in films like *Secret Report from a Women's Prison* (*Hiroku onna-rô*, Inoue Akira, 1967), as the next decade began Daiei, like **Nikkatsu**, was suffering from severe financial difficulties. In June 1970, the two companies merged temporarily to form Dainichi Film Distribution (*Dainichi Eihai*) to share joint distribution costs, although this arrangement lasted only until Nikkatsu withdrew from the partnership in August 1971, and on 29 November 1971, Daiei went into receivership, although its television production department continued to operate as a

separate entity. In 1974, the company was assimilated as a subsidiary of the Tokuma Shoten Publishing Company, which continued to run Daiei's Kyoto studios as a rental studio. With Nagata still working in the capacity of a producer until 1979, Daiei continued production, albeit at a vastly reduced rate, with its films released by the major studios Shochiku and Toho. Works from this period include adaptations of novels by Nishimura Jukô published by the Tokuma parent company, such as *When You Cross a River of Rage* (*Kimi yo funnu no kawa o watare*, Satô Junya, 1976), starring **Takakura Ken**; *The Golden Dog* (*Ôgon no inu*, Yamane Shigeyuki, 1979); and a further entry in the *Gamera* series, *Space Monster Gamera* (*Uchû kaijû Gamera*), directed by Yuasa Noriaki in 1980.

While the animated productions of another Tokuma Shoten subsidiary, **Studio Ghibli**, continued to prove immensely popular during the 1990s, several live-action features produced under the Daiei banner managed to reach the wider overseas market, including Suô Masayuki's phenomenally successful ballroom comedy *Shall We Dance?* (*Shall we dansu?*, 1996), starring **Yakusho Kôji**, and Kaneko Shûsuke's resurrection of the *Gamera* series with a trilogy beginning with *Gamera: The Guardian of the Universe* (*Gamera daikaijû kûchû kessen*, 1995). Daiei also produced **Kurozawa Kiyoshi's** effective psychological thriller *Cure* (*Kyua*, 1997).

In 2002, the publishing giant Kadokawa Shoten, which had already been involved in film production since 1976 (see KADOKAWA HARUKI), acquired Daiei's back catalog and remaining production facilities in Chôfu near Tokyo (where Nikkatsu also retains its studios) from Tokuma and renamed the new company the Kadokawa Daiei Motion Picture Company, in 2004 dropping the references to Daiei to become simply **Kadokawa Pictures**.

DAUGHTER OF THE SAMURAI (DIE TOCHTER DES SAMURAI, 1937). *The Daughter of the Samurai* is an international coproduction between Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan that was intended to forge a common cultural link between the two countries and promote a pro-fascist message. The plot follows a young Japanese university student, Teruo (Kosugi Isamu), as he returns by ship to his stepsister and fiancée, Mitsuko (**Hara Setsuko**, in her first leading role), who is waiting in Japan, taking with him Gerda (Ruth Eweler), the woman he has fallen in love with in Germany, who symbolizes the sophisticated allure of Europe. As Teruo introduces Gerda to his homeland, the rejected Mitsuko attempts suicide by jumping into a volcanic crater, but meanwhile his stepfather (**Hayakawa Sessue**) has persuaded Teruo that his heart lies in Asia, and after Teruo rescues Mitsuko, the young couple move to Manchuria to start a new life as farmers.

The project was initiated by the producer, Dr. Arnold Fanck (1889–1974), the former geologist who pioneered the German mountain film (*der Berg-film*) and discovered Leni Riefenstahl. Fanck enlisted the help of **Kawakita Nagamasa** of the Towa Import Company, an importer of European films to Japan whom he had met in Berlin in 1935. After being impressed by *Chuji in His Heyday* (*Chûji uridasu*, 1935), which Kawakita had shown him, Fanck selected the film's director, Itami Mansaku (1900–1946; *see* ITAMI JÛZÔ), as a possible collaborator. Itami initially turned down the request several times, though he eventually agreed to take on the project under the condition that he write the script. However, the actual shoot was marked by spiraling production costs, behind-the-scenes conflicts, linguistic problems, and mutual distrust between the German and Japanese staff. As a compromise, Fanck agreed to an alternate version of the film for Japanese audiences, entitled *The New Earth*.

Both versions premiered in Tokyo in February 1937, and though neither was a box-office failure, the overall project failed to meet the expectations raised by its generous budget (750,000 Yen, at a time when the average Japanese production was 50,000 Yen) and proved difficult to sell to overseas markets. *The New Earth* effectively marked the end of Itami's directing career (although a further three of his films were subsequently released in



Hara Setsuko, in *The Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937).

世界に真價を問ふ日本最大最高傑作!

Die neue Erde
Spielleitung—
Dr. Arnold Fanck
und Mansaku Itami

早川雪洲
小杉節子
原市川春代
市高木永二
中村吉三
英百合子
ルート・エウヰ
英木

アーノルド・ファンク・伊丹万作 監督

新しき土

ハビアルト・アングスト 撮影 山田耕筰 作曲・指揮

東和商事・J.O.映更

JO Towa

The early German-Japanese coproduction of *The Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937), directed by Dr. Arnold Fanck, with the alternatively titled Japanese version, *The New Earth* (*Atarashiki tsuchi*), directed by Itami Mansaku.

1937–1938). The physical and psychological stress of the production left him bedridden with tuberculosis until his death in 1946, although he continued to write scripts. His *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*) was filmed by Inagaki Hiroshi on two occasions, in a 1943 version starring **Bandô Tsumasaburô** and in 1958 with **Mifune Toshirô**.

Padded with travelogue shots of the characters visiting historical sites such as the Kamakura Buddha and attending Noh performances and Sumo wrestling matches, the German version of *The Daughter of the Samurai* was widely criticized for its misleading and orientalist representation of Japan by local critics, and though it was apparently well-received in Germany, it has since been discovered that the positive unanimity of the press was due to an order by the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda. The film's main point of interest is the characteristically spectacular sequences of smoldering volcanoes filmed by Fanck's regular cameraman Richard Angst and the wide, expansive shots of Manchuria at the coda. However, Fanck was never to make another film in Japan, and only completed one further fictional feature, *Ein Robinson* (1940), and several documentaries before his career ended with the end of the war. *See also* WAR AND FILM.

DIRECTOR'S COMPANY (DIREKUTÂZU KANPANÎ, ディレクターズ・カンパニー). The Director's Company was an organization established in 1982 by Miyasaka Susumu, a figure from the advertising and PR industry. Its goal was to provide an environment for a number of young directors or assistant directors working at **Nikkatsu** or in the **pink film** industry to make more artistically challenging films at a time when there were few opportunities for young filmmakers to gain experience at the major studios. The creative talent associated with the company were Hasegawa Kazuhiko, Ikeda Toshiharu, Izutsu Kazuyuki, **Ishii Sôgo**, **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, Negishi Kichitarô, Ômori Kazuki, Sômai Shinji, and Takahashi Banmei, all of whom at the time were in their late twenties or thirties.

The Director's Company raised its funding through coproduction deals with a number of sources, including the **Art Theatre Guild (ATG)**, with which its fortunes were closely linked. Its products were distributed by companies including **Toho** and **Shochiku**, with Sômai Shinji's erotic thriller *Love Hotel* (*Rabu hoteru*, 1985) released as part of Nikkatsu's **Roman Porno** line. It also produced *Wolf* (*Ôkami*, 1982), directed by **Wakamatsu Kôji**'s former assistant Takahashi Banmei, and **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**'s debut *Kandagawa Wars* (*Kandagawa inran sensô*, 1983), made while the director was only 27; the latter was made for the **pink film** distributor Million Film, while the former was for the same company's mainstream distribution arm, Joypack Film.

Significant productions from the Director's Company include **Ishii Sôgo's** acerbic social satire *Crazy Family* (*Gyakufunsha kazoku*, 1984); Sômai Shinji's teenage rite of passage movie *Typhoon Club* (*Taifû kurabu*, 1985), which was awarded the Grand Prix at the inaugural Tokyo International Film Festival; and Negishi Kichitarô's *Half Eternity* (*Eien no 1/2*, 1987). Its final production before its bankruptcy in 1992 was **Kurosawa Kiyoshi's** slasher movie *The Guard from the Underground* (*Jigoku no keibiin*).

DOCUMENTARY. Documentary film has been present since the birth of filmmaking in Japan, with the first *actualité* footage shot for the Lumière Brothers' invention, the Cinématographe, in Tokyo and Kyoto by their representative, François-Constant Girel, who arrived in the country in 1896, and later by Gabriel Veyre. These single-shot records of Meiji Japan filmed between 1897 and 1899 echo the street scenes and portrayals of daily life that marked the beginning of the medium in France. The 33 titles recorded as being filmed for the Lumière Brothers, of which 29 were later donated to Japan's National Film Center archive (almost none of them were originally screened domestically), include typical travelogue scenes of local color like *Un pont à Kyoto*, *Procession shintoïste*, and *Récolte du riz*; the more intimate *Japonaise faisant sa toilette* and *Repas en famille*; and films of traditional performances including *Acteurs japonais: Bataille au sabre*, *Chanteuse japonaise*, *Danse japonaise* (five films), and *Une Scène au théâtre japonais*. Girel also recorded the lifestyle of the indigenous people of Hokkaido, the Ainu, in *Les Aïnus à Yéso* (1897, two films).

In April 1898, Shibata Tsunekichi of Mitsukoshi Department Store's photographic department became Japan's first cinematographer when he filmed a number of street scenes for the Lumière Brothers, including *Une rue à Tokyo* (three films), *Une place publique à Tokyo*, and footage of what was then Tokyo's main train terminus, Shinbashi, in *Station du chemin de fer de Tokyo*. In 1899, Shibata filmed three scenes from the Kabuki version of the Noh drama *Maple Viewing* (*Momijigari*), starring Onoe Kikugorô V and Ichikawa Danjurô IX. As a straight record of an actual performance, the film can be situated in the documentary genre. However, due to practical issues of lighting and camera placement, the scenes had to be filmed on open-air sets built behind the Kabuki theater and were thus performed specifically for the camera, so it can also be viewed as Japan's first ever fiction film. Many early fiction films were essentially straightforward filmed performances of Kabuki plays.

During the early part of the 20th century, theater programs came to be made up of both fictional shorts and filmed news events, both made in Japan and imported from the United States and Europe, providing a window for the country onto the outside world. During the Russo-Japanese War (1904–

1905), film came into its own as a propaganda tool, with many one- or two-reel films purporting to show what was happening on the front line exhibited as parts of programs released to theaters under the banner *Russo-Japanese War Moving Pictures* (*Nichiro sensô katsudô shashin*). The **Yoshizawa** and **Yokota** companies were active in the production of such footage, with Yoshizawa dispatching a unit headed by Chiba Kichizô to capture footage of the conflict, although some of the films are credited to other figures, including Shibata Tsunekichi. In actuality, none of the battle scenes actually made it onto the films, which mainly consisted of images of marching troops, glimpses of camp life, heavy artillery being fired, and Russian POWs. Attempts at reconstructing the battles using actors, trick effects, and scale models, as Edwin S. Porter had done for Edison in *Skirmish Between Russian and Japanese Advance Guards* (U.S., 1904), or James A. Williamson's re-creations of the Boxer Rebellion, *Attack on a Chinese Mission* (1900), and the Boer War front-line reports as staged by R. W. Paul or Sagar Mitchell and James Kenyon in Great Britain, were quickly recognized as being inauthentic, and the practice failed to become a notable aspect of the Japanese newsreel documentary at this stage (*see* WAR AND FILM).

A significant early landmark was *Japanese Expedition to Antarctica* (*Nippon nankyoku tanken*), a record of Lieutenant Shirase Nobu's 1910 voyage to Antarctica, in which his team landed on the southern continent and made it to roughly 1,000 kilometers away from the South Pole. The 20-minute documentary account, filmed by Taizumi Yasunao and produced by Japan's **M. Pathé** company, was released in 1912 and still exists today.

A number of different terms for what we would describe as documentary soon emerged, including *jikkyô eiga* (real conditions films), *jissha eiga* (actuality films), and later *jiji eiga* (current event films), *nyûsu eiga* (news films), and *kiroku eiga* (real-life record films). Early examples include the Nippon Oil Corporation's *Actuality of the Great Oil Geyser at Kurokawa Oil Fields, Akita Prefecture* (*Akita-ken Kurokawa yuden daifun'yu jikkyô*, 1914) and *The Great Kantô Conflagration Real Conditions* (*Kantô daishin taika jikkyô*, 1923), shot by cameraman Shirai Shigeru (1899–1984). In the Taishô era, the emergence of a documentary subgenre about Japan's royal family, especially Crown Prince Hirohito before his accession marked the beginning of the Shôwa era in 1926, is also notable, with one such title being *Actuality of His Excellency the Regent's Inspection of the Motion Picture Exhibition* (*Sesshônomiya denka katsudô shashin tenrankai gotairan jikkyô*, 1921). On the other end of the political spectrum, the end of the decade also saw the establishment of the **Proletarian Film League of Japan**, although in the years following the passing of the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) of 1925, left-wing organizations such as this were subjected to considerable po-

lice attention, and its members disbanded in 1934 (*see also* ATSUGI TAKA; CENSORSHIP; IWASAKI AKIRA).

With the annexation of Manchuria in 1932, the *bunka eiga* (culture film) rose to become an increasingly important part of wartime production. Modeled on the German *Kulturfilme* produced by Universum Film AG (UFA), many of which were imported to Japan before World War II, these were essentially nonfiction works which, unlike newsreels, were essentially educational films (*kyōiku eiga*), very much constructed by their makers to inform the public about such subjects as local customs and traditions; cultural heritage; portraits of Japan's colonies in Korea, Taiwan, and Manchuria; and science films (*kagaku eiga*). The latter was a genre in which Japanese documentary makers proved particularly strong: in 1936, Miki Shigeru's film about a solar eclipse, *Black Sun* (*Kuroi taiyō*), became the first Japanese documentary to gain international recognition, while Yoshino Keiji's *Snow Crystals* (*Yuki no kesshō*, 1939) was also well-received at the Venice Film Festival and the Pacific Scientific Congress held in Chicago.

The increasing prevalence of synchronized sound throughout the decade meant that the content of the films was less at the whim of the interpretation of the individual *benshi* narrators whose voices accompanied them. By the time of the Marco Polo Bridge Incident in 1937, even the newsreels were talkies, produced by news agencies such as *Asahi Shinbun* and *Yomiuri* as well as the major companies and screened in specialized newsreel theaters. As Japan escalated its militarist activities, of the major studios **Toho** led the way in wartime propaganda, with a trilogy of reports on China's fallen cities, *Shanghai*, *Peking*, and *Nanking*, all released in 1938, the first two of which were supervised by **Kamei Fumio**.

Documentary increased in stature with the passing of the **Film Law** in 1939, mandating the screening of *bunka eiga* alongside features and news films in conventional cinemas, whereas they had previously been the preserve of educational centers such as schools and temples. As their content came under close scrutiny from government ministries eager to ensure that the films fell within national policy (*kokusaku*), the science film provided a safe haven for filmmakers who wanted to avoid politics. Still, as the case of Kamei Fumio's script for *The Geology of Mt. Fuji* (*Fuji no chishitsu*, Akimoto Ken, 1940) indicates, even these could be interpreted in various ways. In 1940, the four national newsreel producers, comprised of the film production units of the *Asahi Shinbun*, *Osaka Mainichi*, and *Yomiuri* newspapers and the news service provider Dōmei Tsūshinsha, were amalgamated as the Japan Film Company (*Nippon Eigasha*), commonly abbreviated to Nichiei, with the purpose of producing war newsreels and propaganda films. Nichiei was responsible for some of the era's most impressive battle

record documentaries (*senki eiga*), including *Malayan War Front: A Record of the March Onwards* (*Marê senki: Shingeki no kiroku*, 1942) and *Oriental Song of Victory* (*Tôyô no gaika*, 1942), constructed from reassembled news footage. After Japan's surrender, on 7 September 1945, the Nichiei director Itô Sueo headed to Hiroshima, where he filmed the five-hour *The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (*Hiroshima, Nagasaki ni okeru genshibakudan no kôka*), assembled under the supervision of the Occupation authorities before it was confiscated and sent to the Pentagon. Footage from the film is regularly included in documentaries about the atomic bombings (see ATOMIC BOMB).

The Occupation forces' agenda of democratizing Japan saw the Civil Information and Education (CIE) putting substantial resources into equipping schools, universities, and other civic organizations, with 16mm projection equipment, leading to a substantial growth in short education and science films during the 1950s. By 1959, documentary short production had risen to 900 titles a year, five times the number produced at the beginning of the decade. Also significant is the role of **Iwanami Productions**, a company established to produce commercials and corporate promotion films, which launched the career of many of the notable documentarists who emerged during this and the next decade, like **Hani Susumu**, whose *Children in the Classroom* (*Kyôshitsu no kodomotachi*, 1954) and *Children Who Draw Pictures* (*E o kaku kodomotachi*, 1956) were widely screened overseas; Tsuchimoto Noriaki; **Ogawa Shinsuke**; and **Haneda Sumiko**. These directors' work often had a left-wing orientation, focusing on political or social issues that were considered too inflammatory for television.

Though traditionally marginalized in mainstream theaters, documentary film went from strength to strength during the 1960s. **Japanese New Wave** directors often worked with the medium or utilized documentary elements within their work, blurring the divisions between fiction filmmaking practices and experimental cinema. **Ôshima Nagisa**, for example, made *Yunbogi's Diary* (*Yunbogi no nikki*, 1965), which consisted of diary entries narrated by a young Korean boy over photographs made by the director during a trip to the war-ravaged country in 1964. **Imamura Shôhei** made a point of revealing the guiding hand of the filmmaker in reconstructing on film a real-life missing person case in *A Man Vanishes* (*Ningen jôhatsu*, 1967) and gave an alternate account of recent history from the lower-caste female subject of *A History of Postwar Japan as Told by a Bar Hostess* (*Nippon sengoshi: Madamu Onboro no seikatsu*, 1970). Matsumoto Toshio's *Funeral Parade of Roses* (*Bara no sôretsu*, 1969) integrated dramatic Freudian sequences in a faux-documentary format in which he himself appeared as the filmmaker exploring Tokyo's gay and transvestite subculture, while *AKA Serial Killer* (*Ryakushô renzoku*

shasatsuma, 1969, released 1975), a collective collaboration among Adachi Masao, critic Matsuda Masao, and Ôshima's screenwriter Sasaki Mamoru followed the movements of Nagayama Norio, a young man on death row for the gun murder of four people, in an avant-garde series of postcard views of the landscapes witnessed by the murderer up until his arrest. Adachi and Matsuda's next collaboration, *Red Army-PFLP: Declaration of World War* (*Sekigun-PFLP: Sekai sensô sengen*, 1971), a pro-Palestinian newsreel depicting life in guerrilla training camps in Israeli-occupied territory, produced by **Wakamatsu Kôji**, marked the apogee of radically political documentary, and its screenings were suppressed by the police.

Polemics largely faded from the Japanese documentary over the next few decades, to be replaced by a more subjective or personal approach, such as the films of **Hara Kazuo**, whose *Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974* (*Kyokushiteki erosu: Renka 1974*) follows the director's troubled relationship with his ex-wife (although the film also passes oblique comment on the American military presence in Okinawa). Documentaries such as this and **Yanagimachi Mitsuo's** debut *Godspeed You! Black Emperor* (*Goddo spîdu yû! Black Emperor*, 1976), about Tokyo biker gangs, were essentially self-produced labors of love, and as such were constrained by their low budgets, necessitating the usage of 16mm monochrome film stock, but they provided valuable insights into the lives of those on the margins of Japanese society as the country approached its economic miracle in the 1980s. Similarly, Ogawa Pro, the collective led by **Ogawa Shinsuke**, found it necessary to integrate completely with its subjects for such monumental portrayals of rural life as *The Sundial Carved by a Thousand Years of Notches: The Magino Village Story* (*Sen-nen kizami no hidokei: Magino-mura monogatari*, 1986). The fruits of two decades of living and working among the farmers of Yamagata Prefecture, these works' high profiles on an international level led to the establishment of the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF) in 1989. Similarly, the increasing support given to *jishu eiga* after the establishment of the **PIA Film Festival** (PFF) in 1977 led to a burgeoning of new works produced using formats accessible to nonprofessionals, like 8mm, 16mm, and video, and provided a way into the industry outside of the traditional apprenticeship routes provided by the major studios. Both PFF and YIDFF have provided a platform for voices and issues generally marginalized within the larger industry: **women** filmmakers like **Kawase Naomi** and **zainichi** directors like Matsue Tetsuaki, whose *Annyong Kimchee* (*Annyon kimuchi*, 1999) investigated his family's history as Koreans in Japan, as well as more edgy or controversial works like those of Tsuchiya Yutaka, whose *The New God* (*Atarashii kami-sama*, 1999) engaged constructively with the members of an ultranationalist punk band, and Mori Tatsuya, whose *A* (1998) and *A2*

(2001) interviewed members of **Aum Shinrikyô**, the renegade religious sect responsible for releasing deadly Sarin gas on the Tokyo metro in 1995.

Since the turn of the millennium, documentary has seen something of a renaissance, with more works enjoying commercial releases in conventional cinemas, and confronting difficult subjects such as the country's aggression on the Asian mainland during World War II in *Japanese Devils* (*Riben Guizi*, Matsui Minoru, 2001); its involvement in the Iraq War in *Little Birds* (*Ritoru bazu: Iraku senka no kazoku-tachi*, Watai Takeharu, 2004); its relationship with North Korea in *Dear Pyongyang* (Yang Yong-hi, 2006); the deficiencies of its electoral system in *Campaign* (*Senkyô*, Sôda Kazuhiro, 2007); and the forgotten history of the wartime pilots of the suicidal kamikaze squadrons (*tokkôtai*) in *Tokko: Wings of Defeat* (2007), directed by the Japanese American Morimoto Risa. Regrettably, outside of the film festival circuit, Japanese documentary films have not been as widely circulated as those made in the English language.

E

EDOGAWA RAMPO (江戸川乱歩, 1894-1965). Rampo Edogawa is the pen name that was used by Hirai Tarô (1894–1965), Japan’s foremost writer of mystery, horror, and detective fiction in the 20th century. It is derived from the Japanese phonetic pronunciation of the American mystery writer Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) and spelled with *kanji* characters literally meaning “chaos walking by the River Edo.” Poe was one of several Western writers from whom Rampo drew his inspiration, with others including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, H. G. Wells, and Maurice Leblanc.

From the publication of his first short story, “The Two-Sen Copper Coin” (*Ni-sen dôka*) in 1923, Rampo’s fiction proved very popular with the public, and his stories, often featuring the fictional detective Akechi Kogorô, have been adapted for film and television on numerous occasions, with the first screen version being the silent film *The Killer Dwarf* (*Issunboshi*), codirected by Naoki Sanjûgo and Shiba Seika in 1927. However, their foreign influences and fantastical nature, coupled with an often strong erotic content, resulted in their being dismissed as *ero guro nansensu* (“erotic grotesque nonsense”) by contemporary critics. During the Shôwa period, Rampo came under increasing scrutiny from government censors, as portrayed in the 1994 film *The Mystery of Rampo*, directed by Mayuzumi Rintarô and simultaneously released in a second version, drastically re-edited by its producer, Okuyama Kazuyoshi, to mark both the centenary of the author’s birth and that of **Shochiku**, the company that produced it.

Despite this fall from favor during the war years, Rampo’s stories once more came to be seen as suitable for screen adaptations, with the release of Daiei Studio’s *The Palette Knife Murder* (*Pareto naifu no satsujin*, 1946) followed in the 1950s by a number of serials, including Shochiku’s three-part *The Fiend with Twenty Faces* (*Kaijin nijû mensô*, 1954), featuring Detective Akechi Kogorô pitted against his eponymous archrival, and **Toei**’s nine-part *The Boys Detective Gang* (*Shônen tantei-dan*, 1956–1959), based on a series of stories for younger readers about an agency of amateur juvenile detectives supervised by Akechi. In 1956, **Mishima Yukio** adapted Rampo’s Detective Akechi tale about a female jewel thief, *Black Lizard* (*Kurotokage*), for

the stage. Film versions by Inoue Umetsugu and **Fukasaku Kinji** followed in 1962 and 1968 respectively, with the former starring **Kyô Machiko** and the latter featuring female impersonator Maruyama Akihiro under his stage name, Miwa Akihiro.

Other film versions of Rampo's work include **Masumura Yasuzô's** *Blind Beast* (*Môjû*, 1969), about a blind sculptor who abducts a girl to serve as the inspiration for his next work; *Horrors of Malformed Men* (*Kyôfu kikei ningen*, 1969), Ishii Teruo's psychedelic and controversial **horror** film featuring Hijikata Tatsumi (1928–1986), the founder of the modern dance performance art known as Butoh, as a mad Dr. Moreau-like scientist overseeing his own island paradise of human mutations; *Watcher in the Attic* (*Yaneura no sanpôsha*, Tanaka Noboru, 1976), a **Roman Porno** film about the voyeuristic landlord of a 1920s boarding house; *D-Slope Murder Case* (*D-zaka no satsujin jiken*, Jissôji Akio, 1998), based on the 1925 story that marked Detective Akechi's first-ever print appearance; *Gemini* (*Sôseiji*, 1999), **Tsukamoto Shinya's** adaptation of the story of a high-class physician whose house and identity are taken over by a long-lost twin abandoned by his parents at childbirth; and *Rampo Noir* (*Rampo jigoku*, 2004), a four-part omnibus of Rampo's most famous horror stories, featuring **Asano Tadanobu**. In 2008, Satô Shimako (see WOMEN) directed *K-20: Legend of the Mask* (*K-20: Kaijin nijû mensô*), a superhero movie that placed Edogawa's characters Detective Akechi and the *Fiend with Twenty Faces* in an alternate 20th-century Japan in which World War II never happened.

ERODUCTION (ERODAKUSHON, エロダクション). See PINK FILM.

ERO GURO NANSENSU (エログロナンセンス). The term *ero guro nansensu*, derived from the English “erotic grotesque nonsense” and often abbreviated to *ero guro*, first entered into common parlance in the 1920s. It initially referred to the new strain of pulp literature by such writers as **Edogawa Rampo**, Umehara Hokumei (1901–1946), Unno Jûza (1897–1949), and Yumeno Kyûsaku (1889–1936), as well as others associated with the popular magazine *Shin Seinen*. As well as detective, **horror**, and mystery fiction primarily aimed at adolescent audiences and focusing on deviant sexuality, the irrational, and the bizarre, the term also encompassed true crime stories and popular pseudoscientific texts of a sensationalistic and prurient nature. The movement's alienness from Japan's cultural traditions and its popularity with the masses was increasingly seen as a threat by nationalist and conservative intellectuals during the late 1920s and 1930s.

The term resurfaced in the 1950s to describe the more macabre B-movie gangster, science fiction, and horror works produced by **Shinto**, such as

those directed by Ishii Teruo, as well as screen adaptations of writers like Rampo. From the 1980s onward, it has been most commonly used in connection with underground works featuring overt depictions of sex, violence, and grotesquerie, such as the films *Entrails of a Beautiful Woman* (*Bijo no harawata*, 1986) and *Entrails of a Virgin* (*Shojo no harawata*, 1986), directed by Komizu Kazuo under the pseudonym Gaira; the horror *manga* of artists such as Hino Hideshi and their adaptations; and Harada Hiroshi's cult animation *Midori: The Girl in the Freak Show* (*Chika gentô gekiga: shôjo tsubaki*, 1992).

F

FILM LAW (EIGA-HÔ, 映画法). Modeled on similar laws enacted in Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, the Film Law was officially proclaimed on 5 April 1939 and put into effect on 1 October the same year with the aim of bringing the industry under state control “to urge the qualitative improvement of motion pictures and to plan the healthy development of the film industry in order to contribute to the progress of the national culture.”

The law consisted of 26 articles, with a further 58 articles pertaining to its enforcement announced on 27 September 1939, four days before it went into effect. These included a license system for film production and distribution; mandatory registration for film directors, actors, and camera operators; a restriction on the number of foreign films screened; permission for the scenarios of fiction films before shooting; time restrictions on the duration of film programs and age restrictions for audiences; and the compulsory screening of newsreels (*jiji eiga*) and culture films (*bunka eiga*), **documentaries** intended to extol and nourish the national spirit.

The Film Law also authorized the **censorship** of all films shown in Japan. Scenes not permitted included those that profaned the royal family or undermined the dignity of the empire; hampered the propaganda purposes necessary to the exercise of national policies; hindered the development of national culture; undermined the proper use of the Japanese language; featured notably inferior production technique; and might corrupt good morals or threaten national morality.

In 1940, the regulations became stricter, prohibiting “slice-of-life films, films describing individual happiness, films treating the lives of the rich, scenes of women smoking, drinking in cafés, etc., the use of foreign words, and films dealing with sexual frivolity.” They also mandated the precensorship and rewriting by the Censorship Office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of all film scenarios to be produced within the country and exhorted “films showing industrial and food production” and “national movies of healthy entertainment value with themes showing persons ready to serve.”

In January 1940, **Iwasaki Akira**, a left-wing film critic and formerly one of the central figures in the **Proletarian Film League of Japan** collective that

had been forced to disband in 1934 due to police pressure, was arrested; he was detained until 22 February 1941 with no explanation, though it is commonly believed it was due in part to his open criticism of the new restrictions. The Film Law was repealed following Japan's surrender on 15 August 1945.

FUKASAKU KINJI (深作欣二, 1930–2003). Fukasaku Kinji was a director of popular commercial films. He is most associated with the *yakuza* genre, with works including *Japan Organized Crime Boss* (*Nihon bōryoku-dan: Kumichō*, 1969), *Street Mobster* (*Gendai yakuza: Hitokiri yota*, 1972), *Sympathy for the Underdog* (*Bakuto gaijin butai*, 1971), and the groundbreaking series that began with *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Jingi naki tatakai*, 1973). He is also known for the late career success of his final film, *Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, 2000), an adaptation of Takami Kōshun's novel of the same name, published in 1999.

Fukasaku spent much of his career at **Toei**, joining the company in 1953 after graduating from Nihon University, where he had enrolled in 1949 in Japan's first university department specializing in film. Initially working as an assistant to directors including Kobayashi Tsuneo, Makino Masahiro, Sasaki Yasushi, and Sekigawa Hideo, he made his debut in 1961 with the B-movie crime thriller *The Drifting Detective: Tragedy of the Red Valley* (*Fûraibō tantei: Akai tani no sangeki*, 1961), which he followed with a sequel released to cinemas two weeks later, *The Drifting Detective: Black Wind Across the Cape* (*Fûraibō tantei: Akai tani no sangeki*, 1961). Both films provided early starring roles for the actor Chiba Shinichi, who would appear in many of Fukasaku's films throughout the director's career. Early titles such as *Greed in Broad Daylight* (*Hakuchū no buraikan*, 1961), about a gang of foreigners' attempts to hold up an armored truck containing U.S. army pay; *Gang vs. G Men* (*Gyangu tai G Men*, 1962), in which a disparate group of former criminals are assembled by the police to take on a vicious gang; and *Wolves, Pigs and Men* (*Ōkami to buta to ningen*, 1964), which pitted three slum-dwelling gangster brothers against one another, established Fukasaku's pattern for contemporary action and crime dramas inspired by the French New Wave and American *noir*, featuring realistic portrayals of violence and often set in chaotic, working-class milieus. Nevertheless, at the time his films were relatively unpopular in comparison with the *ninkyō eiga* ("chivalry films") line of *yakuza* films established by Toei in the early 1960s, despite often featuring many of the company's top stars such as Tanba Tetsurō, Takakura Ken, and Tsuruta Kōji.

During the latter half of the 1960s, Fukasaku worked on several less-typical projects, including *Black Lizard* (*Kurotokage*, 1968), a film version of the **Mishima Yukio** stage play based on an **Edogawa Rampo** story,

which starred the female impersonator Miwa Akihiro (real name Maruyama Akihiro), and *Black Rose Mansion* (*Kuro bara no yakata*, 1969), also starring Miwa, as a nightclub singer who is visited by her former lovers during a private party held in her honor. These two films were made during a year spent at **Shochiku**, along with a third title, *Blackmail Is My Life* (*Kyôkatsu koso waga jinsei*, 1968), which saw Fukasaku in more characteristic territory with a story about a group of small-time extortionists. He also directed the U.S.–Japanese coproduction of *The Green Slime* (*Ganma 3-gô: Uchû daikusen*, 1968), about a space station invaded by aliens, and, along with **Masuda Toshio**, the Japanese parts of Twentieth Century-Fox's war spectacular *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), directed by Richard Fleischer (see WAR AND FILM), as well as the more personal **independent** works *If You Were Young: Rage* (*Kimi ga wakamono nara*, 1970), about a group of five friends who band together investing in a truck to start a business together, and *Under the Flag of the Rising Sun* (*Gunki hatameku moto ni*, 1972), starring **Hidari Sachiko** as a war widow investigating a military cover-up surrounding her husband's death.

By the 1970s, with the decline in popularity of Toei's formulaic *ninkyô eiga*, Fukasaku's more realistic approach resulted in a masterpiece that resulted in his being hailed as the leading filmmaker in the *yakuza* genre, *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (1973), a pioneering work that launched the company's new *jitsuroku* ("true record") line of films, realized in a frenetic, pseudodocumentary style. Based on a real account of the rise of rival gangs in Occupation-era Hiroshima, this grand-scale work made a star out of Sugawara Bunta and led to four immediate sequels under the *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* banner: *Fight to the Death in Hiroshima* (*Hiroshima shitôhen*, 1973), *Proxy War* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Dairi sensô*, 1973), *Police Tactics* (*Chôjô sakusen*, 1974), and *Final Episode* (*Kanketsu-hen*, 1974). Fukasaku followed these with three films in the *New Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai*) series—*New Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai*, 1974), *It's Time to Kill the Boss* (*Kumichô no kubi*, 1975), and *The Boss's Final Day* (*Kumichô saigo no hi*, 1976)—and similar works such as *Graveyard of Honor* (*Jingi no hakaba*, 1975), *Cops vs. Thugs* (*Kenkei tai soshiki bôryoku*, 1975), and *Yakuza Graveyard* (*Yakuza no hakaba: Kuchinashi no hana*, 1976).

Fukasaku moved away from the contemporary crime genre toward the end of the decade with his first **jidai-geki** titles, *Shogun's Samurai* (*Yagyû ichizoku no inbô*, 1978) and *The Fall of Ako Castle* (*Akô-jô denzetsu*, 1978); the science fiction movie *Message from Space* (*Uchû kara no messêji*, 1978); and the disaster film *Virus* (*Fukkatsu no hi*, 1980). The latter featured an international cast and was produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**, with whom Fukasaku also made such big-budget commercial projects as the period fantasies

Samurai Reincarnation (*Makai tenshō*, 1981) and *Legend of Eight Samurai* (*Satomi hakkenden*, 1983), and *Fall Guy* (*Kamata kōshinkyoku*, 1982), about a stunt man working on a *jidai-geki* film on the Toei studio lot (although the film was actually distributed by Shochiku).

Other late-career titles include *Sure Death: Revenge* (*Hissatsu 4: Urami harashimasu*, 1987), the fourth theatrical spin-off of TV Asahi's long-running *jidai-geki* series *Sure Death* (*Hissatsu*, 1972–), which Fukasaku had also directed episodes of; *The Triple Cross* (*Itsuka giragira suru hi*, 1992), a return to the crime–action movie genre; and *Crest of Betrayal* (*Chūshingura gaiden: Yotsuya kaidan*, 1994), a fusion of the classic Japanese **horror** story *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Tōkaidō Yotsuya kaidan*) and ***Chūshingura***. It would be another five years before Fukasaku's penultimate film came out, *The Geisha House* (*Omocha*, 1999), a drama about the grooming of a young geisha scripted by **Shindō Kaneto**.

Though many of Fukasaku's films had been exported to overseas markets previously, the international success of his final work, *Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, 2000), brought the director's name to a new generation of viewers. The film is set in an alternate dystopian future where problems of juvenile delinquency are tackled by an annual government program wherein a group of third-year junior-high-school students are transported to a deserted island and, after each is given a weapon or tool, must fight to the death until there is only one survivor. Its success led to a sequel, *Battle Royale II: Requiem* (*Batoru rowaiaru II: Chinkonka*, 2003), although Fukasaku announced before filming that he was suffering from terminal cancer and died during production; his son Fukasaku Kenta completed the project.

G

GANGSTER FILMS. *See* YAKUZA.

GODZILLA (GOJIRA, ゴジラ, 1954). Godzilla is the most iconic and enduring movie creation to emerge from Japan. The eponymous **Toho** production, directed by **Honda Ishirô** in 1954, effectively created an entire genre of giant monster films known as *kaijû eiga*. Taking his name from a combination of the Japanese words *gorira* (“gorilla”) and *kujira* (“whale”), the mutated fire-breathing dinosaur featured in 28 Japanese titles between 1954 and 2004 and a Hollywood film directed by Roland Emmerich released in 1998, as well as appearing in a host of other media, including an animated television series coproduced by Toho and the American studio Hanna-Barbera Productions that first aired in 1978, and numerous books and comic books published in both Japan and America.

Prompted by the 1952 Japanese reissue of Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack’s *King Kong* (1933) and Eugène Lourié’s 1953 science fiction film *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms*, the original *Godzilla* was also inspired by the real-life Bikini Atoll tragedy of 1 March 1954, in which the crew members of the Japanese fishing boat *Daigo Fukuryû-maru* were exposed to radioactive fallout following U.S. nuclear testing in the Pacific, with the boat’s chief radio engineer dying six months later. The incident formed the basis of **Shindô Kaneto**’s 1959 film *Lucky Dragon No. 5 (Daigo Fukuryûmaru)*. The plot has the prehistoric monster rising from the bottom of the ocean after being awakened by nuclear testing, eventually heading to Tokyo to destroy the city before being killed by the Oxygen Destroyer, a powerful weapon developed secretly by the lone scientist Dr. Serizawa, who sacrifices himself bringing an end to the beast’s rampage. Shot in monochrome, the film starred Shimura Takashi (a performer familiar from the films of Honda’s friend and colleague at Toho, **Kurosawa Akira**), Kôchi Momoko, Takarada Akira, and Hirata Akihiko, with the creature itself played by a man in a rubber suit, a tradition that has continued throughout the series.

The original *Godzilla* was given a limited theatrical release in North America in specialist theaters for the Japanese–American community. However, in

1956, Jewell Enterprises dubbed and re-edited the film with new footage shot in America, featuring Raymond Burr as a reporter covering the attack, and reissued it as *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!* This practice of retitling and re-editing original Japanese productions and adding new sequences with Western actors to appeal to non-Japanese markets became standard for *kaijû eiga*, with notable examples including Honda's 1955 film about the abominable snowman, *Half Human (Jûjin yukiotoko)*, which featured new scenes starring John Carradine. It ensured their widespread screening on Western television networks, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s, thereby allowing them to become the most widely visible examples of Japanese cinema overseas. In return, the new Americanized version of *Godzilla* was also released in Japan in 1958.

The success of *Godzilla* inaugurated a series of 15 films in total, until Honda's final work as a director, *Terror of Mechagodzilla (Mekagojira no gyakushû, 1975)*. The key team behind the films consisted of producer Tanaka Tomoyuki and special effects director Tsuburaya Eiji (until his death in 1970, after which he was succeeded by Nakano Teruyoshi), with scores by Ifukube Akira and with Honda typically directing, although the immediate follow-up to the original, *Godzilla Raids Again (Gojira no gyakushû, 1955)*, which was released in the United States as *Gigantis, the Fire Monster*, was directed by Oda Motoyoshi. Whereas the original film presented a serious allegory about the destructive power of nuclear weapons, subsequent installments became increasingly oriented toward the children's market, with Godzilla transformed into a more benevolent creature defending humankind from a host of what would become *kaijû eiga* regulars in the titles such as *King Kong vs. Godzilla (Kingu Kongu tai Gojira, 1962)*, the first to be filmed in color and the TohoScope widescreen format; *Mothra vs. Godzilla (Mosura tai Gojira, 1964)*; *Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster (San Daikajû: Chikyû saidai no kessen, 1964)*; and *Invasion of Astro-Monster (Kaijû daisensô, 1965)*. Fukuda Jun directed the seventh and eighth films, *Godzilla vs. the Sea Monster (Godzilla Ebirah Mothra: Nankai no daikettô, 1966)*, which introduced a new foe in the form of a giant lobster named Ebirah, and *Son of Godzilla (Kaijû-tô no kessen: Gojira no musuko, 1967)*, and also contributed several titles in the 1970s, including *Godzilla vs. Gigan (Chikyû kogeiki meirei: Godzilla tai Gigan, 1972)*. Banno Yoshimitsu directed the 11th film, *Godzilla vs. Hedorah (Gojira tai Hedora, 1971)*.

After laying the initial series to rest for several years, producer Tanaka Tomoyuki restarted the franchise in 1984 to mark the 30th anniversary of the original with *The Return of Godzilla*, directed by Hashimoto Kôji. Released in Japan simply as *Godzilla*, it was intended as a direct sequel to Honda's 1954 film and adopted a similarly apocalyptic tone. Its positive box-office

reception led to a further six productions, featuring Kawakita Kôichi as special effects director—including *Godzilla vs. Biollante* (*Gojira tai Biorante*, Ômori Kazuki, 1989), *Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II* (*Gojira tai Mekagojira*, Ôkawara Takao, 1993), and *Godzilla vs. Destoroyah* (*Gojira tai Desutoroia*, Ôkawara Takao, 1995)—before Tanaka's death in 1997 brought an end to this second cycle. Tanaka had also brought back *Mothra* (*Mosura*) for a new trilogy that began with a new film by Yoneda Okihiro in 1996.

The third cycle, referred to by fans as the Millennium Series, is considered to have been prompted partly as a reaction against the Hollywood remake, *Godzilla* (Roland Emmerich, 1998), produced by TriStar Pictures and starring Matthew Broderick. The six most recent films were all produced by Tomiyama Shôgo; it began with *Godzilla 2000: Millennium* (*Gojira 2000: Mireniamu*, Ôkawara Takao, 1999), which became the last of Toho's Godzilla films to receive a theatrical release in America, and ended with *Godzilla: Final Wars* (*Gojira: Fainaru wôzu*, 2004), directed by Kitamura Ryûhei, to mark the 50th anniversary of the monster's first screen appearance.

H

HAHA-MONO (母物). The term *haha-mono*, literally meaning “mother story,” refers to the sentimental portrayals of maternal love and self-sacrifice that became a notable aspect of Japanese cinema, especially before the war, when they were one of the most common *gendai-geki* genres, with a great appeal to **women** audiences.

Examples include **Ozu Yasujirô**’s *A Mother Should Be Loved* (*Haha o kowazu ya*, 1934), about the effects on a family of the sudden death of its patriarch, and the director’s first talkie, *The Only Son* (*Hitori musuko*, 1936), about a mother who works at a silk mill to pay her son’s way through college in Tokyo; **Shimizu Hiroshi**’s *Forget Love for Now* (*Koi mo wasurete*, 1937), in which a prostitute working in a bar for foreigners in Yokohama is unable to prevent her son from being bullied by his classmates due to her profession; **Kinoshita Keisuke**’s *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeki*, 1953), depicting a mother’s struggle to bring up her children after the war; and **Naruse Mikio**’s *Mother* (*Okaasan*, 1952), featuring **Tanaka Kinuyo** as a recent widow who attempts to keep her family, which includes a rebellious teenage daughter and a sickly son, in order through the hardship of the postwar years.

HANEDA SUMIKO (羽田澄子, 1926–). Born in Manchuria and educated at the Jiyû Gakuen school founded by Hani Motoko (the grandmother of **Hani Susumu**), Haneda Sumiko is a **documentary** filmmaker who began her career at **Iwanami Productions** in 1950. Since her directing debut in 1957 with *Women’s College in the Village* (*Mura no fujin gakkû*), she has made more than 80 films, specializing in Japanese traditions and arts, **women**’s issues, and social welfare. Typical works include *Genre Pictures in the Late 16th Century* (*Fûzokuga: Kinsei shoki*, 1967), *How to Care for the Senile* (*Chihôsei rôjin no sekai*, 1986), *Ode to Mount Hayachine* (*Hayachine no fu*, 1982), *Akiko, Portrait of a Dancer* (*Akiko: Aru dansâ no shôzô*, 1985), *Women’s Testimony: Pioneering Women in the Labor Movement* (*Onnatachi no shôgen: Rôdô undô no naka no senkuteki joseitachi*, 1996), and *Into the Picture Scroll: The Tale of Yamanaka Tokiwa* (*Yamanaka Tokiwa*, 2004).

HANI SUSUMU (羽仁進, 1928–). Hailing from a distinguished intellectual family—his grandmother Hani Motoko was a feminist writer and founder of the progressive private school Jiyû Gakuen (‘Freedom School’), while his father Hani Gorô was a prominent Marxist historian and social critic—Hani Susumu is often situated within the **Japanese New Wave** movement, though unlike more prominent figures like **Ôshima Nagisa** and **Imamura Shôhei**, he came from a **documentary** background. Starting his career in the early 1950s at **Iwanami Productions**, his debut was the 19-minute *Living and Water* (*Seikatsu to mizu*, 1952), sponsored by the Ministry of Welfare. He followed this with *Children in the Classroom* (*Kyôshitsu no kodomotachi*, 1954) and *Children Who Draw Pictures* (*E o kaku kodomotachi*, 1956), both shown widely at overseas festivals and considered seminal works in postwar Japanese documentary film.

Hani’s first dramatic feature was *Bad Boys* (*Furyô shônen*, 1961). Depicting the lives of juvenile delinquents in a reform center, it was shot in real-life locations using actual former inmates, with an improvised script incorporating his subjects’ firsthand experiences. These innovative *cinéma vérité* techniques, as well as his choice of shooting in 16mm (later blown up to 35mm), proved highly influential for independent filmmakers, and the film was voted best of the year in *Kinema Junpô*. Hani followed it with his final film at Iwanami, *She and He* (*Kanojo to kare*, 1963), a portrait of a married couple living in a cramped tenement development in the Tokyo suburbs, whose style mirrored the “kitchen sink” social realism of contemporaneous British drama. **Hidari Sachiko** (1930–2001), the lead actress and Hani’s wife from 1958 until their divorce in 1977, won two Silver Bears awards at the 1964 Berlin Film Festival, for this film and Imamura’s *Insect Woman* (*Nippon konchûki*), later appearing in her husband’s *Bride of the Andes* (*Andesu no hanayome*, 1966) as a mail-order bride sent to Peru to join her Japanese archeologist husband.

After setting up his own company, Hani Productions, his later films included two coproductions with the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG), the experimental *Nanami: Inferno of First Love* (*Hatsukoi: Jigoku-hen*, 1968), filmed using an amateur cast, from a script by **Terayama Shûji** that recounted a young man’s traumatic sexual history on the eve of losing his virginity to a nude model, and *Morning Schedule* (*Gozenchû no kikanwari*, 1972). But by the early 1970s, Hani had become disillusioned with the film world. The overseas location shooting of *Bride of the Andes* and Hani’s previous film (and first in color), *The Song of Bwana Toshi* (*Buwana toshi no uta*, 1965), in which Atsushi Kiyoshi, the star of **Yamada Yôji**’s *It’s Tough Being a Man* (*Otoko wa tsurai yo*, 1969–97), played a Japanese engineer on a cultural exchange in Kenya, anticipated a change in direction for the director, and

he spent much of the 1970s abroad, concentrating his energies on television wildlife documentaries such as NHK's *Animal Family* (*Dôbutsu kazoku*), which carried on an interest in animals first manifested in his *Zoo Diary* (*Dôbutsu nikki*, 1957). In 1981, he returned to Kenya to film the scenic wildlife adventure *Africa Story* (*Afurika monogatari*), which featured the American actor James Stewart in one of his final roles. Other late works include the **atomic bomb** documentaries *Prophecy* (*Yogen*, 1982) and *History: The Age of Nuclear Madness* (*Kaku kyôran no jidai*, 1983).

Though his film work is little seen today, Hani is of interest due to his melding of fiction and documentary techniques and for being the most internationally conscious filmmaker of his generation. He remains active as a children's illustrator and an essayist in the fields of ecology and conservation. His daughter Hani Mio (1964–), the subject of his 1970 documentary *Mio*, detailing her attempts as a child to adapt to a new life when her family moves to Sardinia, appeared in *Hollywood* (*Heriuddo*, Nagamine Takafumi, 1982) and is now an established essayist and cultural critic based in Hong Kong.



Hani Susumu's *Bad Boys* (*Furyô shônen*, 1961), an experiment in documentary-style drama produced by Iwanami Productions. © Hitachi Ltd.

HARA KAZUO (原一男, 1945–). Hara Kazuo is the most influential Japanese **documentary** filmmaker to emerge during the 1970s. His first film, *Goodbye CP* (*Sayonara CP*, 1972), laid bare the lives of a group of cerebral palsy sufferers at a time when the handicapped were all but invisible in Japan. *Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974* (*Kyokushiteki erosu: Renka 1974*) depicted the director's own troubled relationship with his ex-wife Takeda Miyuki, a feminist activist and bisexual, as he and his new girlfriend Kobayashi Sachiko (later Hara's wife and collaborator on all his subsequent projects) follow her to Okinawa, where she has become pregnant by an African–American G.I. The film, which culminates in Miyuki giving birth, initiated a trend in frank, confessional documentary making that would reach full fruition with the works of a later generation of *jishu eiga* directors, most significantly **Kawase Naomi**, as well as serving as an inspiration for non-Japanese filmmakers such as Michael Moore.

Hara's choice of challenging, politicized subject matter and his **independent** position within the industry has made it difficult to find financing for his projects. His first two films were both shot on 16mm monochrome, and his output in general has been sporadic. His first documentary to gain widespread international recognition was *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (*Yuki yukite shingun*, 1987), on which **Imamura Shôhei** was the associate producer. A portrait of the volatile, anti-imperialist World War II veteran Okuzaki Kenzô as he seeks to disclose Emperor Hirohito's **wartime** culpability with revelations of cannibalism among Japanese troops posted in New Guinea, it won numerous awards at international film festivals and was voted the best film of 1988 by the readers of *Kinema Junpô*.

Other work by Hara includes *A Dedicated Life* (*Zenshin shôsetsuka*, 1994), a profile of the novelist Inoue Mitsuhiro struggling with liver cancer, whose story of an ordinary family in Nagasaki's routine the day before its **atomic bombing** was adapted for the screen by Kuroki Kazuo as *Tomorrow/Ashita* (*Tomorrow: Ashita*, 1988); *My Mishima* (*Watashi no Mishima*, 1999), about the remaining inhabitants of the remote depopulated island of the title, realized collaboratively with a group of students he brought together to form the filmmaking collective Cinema Juku (literally "Cinema Cram School"); and his first fiction film, *The Many Faces of Chika* (*Mata no hi no Chika*, 2005), a portrait of a young **woman** living during the 1970s, filmed using different actresses to represent the various aspects she presents to the four men in her life through whom her story is told. Hara's other credits include working as an assistant on several films by **Kumai Kei**, including *The Sea and Poison* (*Umi to dokuyaku*, 1986), *Mt. Aso's Passion* (*Shikibu monogatari*, 1990), and *Deep River* (*Fukai kawa*, 1995).

HARA SETSUKO (原節子, 1920–). One of the great actresses from the classical period, Hara Setsuko is most familiar to Western viewers as part of the repertory that regularly appeared in **Ozu Yasujiro**'s postwar works, along with other character actors including Ryû Chishû, Sugimura Haruko, and Tonno Eijirô. Appearing both modern and independent while embodying the desired feminine virtues of demureness, politeness, and emotional restraint, her roles in Ozu's films, often as unwedded daughters or widowed wives, earned her the label "the eternal virgin."

Hara appeared in six films for the director, beginning with the "Noriko trilogy" of *Late Spring* (*Banshun*, 1949), *Early Summer* (*Bakushû*, 1951), and *Tokyo Story* (*Tôkyô monogatari*, 1953), in which she effectively played the same character in different situations, and concluding with *The End of Summer* (*Kohayagawa-ke no aki*, 1961). This screen persona was also put to good effect in two films by **Naruse Mikio**, in which she was paired alongside Uehara Ken; *Repast* (*Meshi*, 1951), playing a neglected wife in an ailing marriage; and the **Kawabata Yasunari** adaptation *The Sound of the Mountain* (*Yama no oto*, 1954), in which her husband's infidelity strengthens her friendship with her father-in-law.

Born in Yokohama as Aida Masae, Hara was introduced to **Nikkatsu** studios by her brother-in-law, the director Kumagai Hisatora, making her debut in a supporting role in Taguchi Satoshi's *Don't Hesitate, Young Folks* (*Tamerau nakare wakodo yo*, 1935) and appearing in **Yamanaka Sadao**'s *Soshun Kouchiyama* (*Kouchiyama Sôshun*) the following year. Her first leading role was in the German-Japanese coproduction *Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937), for which she traveled to Berlin for the film's premiere in 1937, when she was just 16. It was one of a number of propagandist works Hara appeared in during the **war**, which include *Eastward Bound* (*Tôyûki*, 1940), filmed in Manchuria by Ôtani Toshio for the **Manchuria Film Association** and starring Ri Kôran (see YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO); Yamamoto Satsuo's *Searing Wind* (*Neppu*, 1943), set in an iron-smelting factory in Kita-Kyushu, which utilizes Caucasian prisoners of war for labor; and more overtly militaristic titles like *Naval Brigade at Shanghai* (*Shanghai rikusentai*, Kumagai Hisatora, 1939), *The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya* (*Hawai-Marê oki kaisen*, Yamamoto Kajirô, 1942), *Towards the Decisive Battle in the Sky* (*Kessen no ôzora e*, Watanabe Kunio, 1943), and *The Opium War* (*Ahen sensô*, Masahiro Makino, 1943), an anti-British tract set in the 1830s, in which Hara played a Chinese girl.

Such appearances during the war lend a certain irony to her role in **Kurosawa Akira**'s *No Regrets for Our Youth* (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946), in which Hara played the daughter of a communist law professor leading a resistance movement at Kyoto University, who falls in love with and marries

one of her father's favored students only for him to die in police custody. The film, which depicts Hara's changing political beliefs from supporting the wartime regime to opposing it, was loosely inspired by the real-life case of Ozaki Hotsumi, who in 1944 became the only Japanese citizen to suffer the death penalty for treason during the wartime period. Hara also appeared in the same director's Fyodor Dostoyevsky adaptation, *The Idiot* (*Hakuchi*, 1951).

As well as her films for Ozu, Kurosawa, and Naruse, Hara appeared in works by Imai Tadashi, including *Suicide Troops of the Watchtower* (*Bôro no kesshi-tai*, 1943) and *Blue Mountains* (*Aoi sanmyaku*, 1949); by **Kinoshita Keisuke**, such as *Here's to the Girls* (*Ojô-san kanpai*, 1949); by Kawashima Yûzô, such as *Women Unveiled* (*Onna de aru koto*, 1958); and by Yoshimura Kôzaburô, such as *The Ball at the Anjo House* (*Anjô-ke no butôkai*, 1947), about an aristocratic Japanese family in decline, and *Temptation* (*Yûwaku*, 1948).

Some of her least characteristic roles during the 1950s were in the films of Inagaki Hiroshi, with whom she made *The Three Treasures* (*Nihon tanjô*, 1959), a star-studded fantasy treatment of Japan's creation myth in which she played the Sun Goddess Amaterasu, and her final screen appearance in *Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*) in 1962, the second time she had acted in a film version of the *Chûshingura* legend, having appeared in the 1939 version, whose two parts were directed Takizawa Eisuke and Yamamoto Kajirô.

Since her sudden announcement that she was retiring from acting in 1963, Hara has lived a reclusive life in Kamakura, refusing to grant any interviews. She was possibly the model for the character at the heart of **Kon Satoshi's** 2001 *anime* *Millennium Actress* (*Sennen joyû*), although it is likely that Kon also drew upon elements of **Yamaguchi Yoshiko's** life for inspiration. Though their careers ran in parallel, the actresses appeared together only a few times, with Hara having lower billing than Yamaguchi in the Manchurian-shot *Eastward Bound* (1940), and in Yamamoto Kajirô's *A Holiday in Tokyo* (*Tôkyô no kyûjitsu*, 1958).

HASEGAWA KAZUO (長谷川一夫, 1908–1984). Hasegawa Kazuo was one of several early *jidai-geki* stars, including **Bandô Tsumasaburô** and Kataoka Chiezô, who began their careers on stage as Kabuki actors before making their names in film. He made his first stage appearance at the age of five at his uncle's theater in 1913 and appeared under numerous stage names over the following years before joining **Shochiku's** Shimokamo studios in Kyoto in 1927.

Hasegawa first appeared onscreen under the name Hayashi Chôjirô, with a leading role in Inuzuka Minoru's *Sword of the Child* (*Chigo no kenpô*, 1927), produced by **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** Kinugasa Film Alliance and with **Tsuburaya Eiji** as cinematographer. He would be known under this stage name

for the next 10 years after subsequently being contracted to Shochiku, starring in numerous works by Kinugasa, such as *Crazed Blades Under the Moon* (*Gekka no kyôjin*, 1927), *Benten Boy* (*Benten kozô*, 1928), the first talkie version of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1932), *Jirokichi the Rat* (*Nezumi kozô Jirokichi*, 1932), and the three-part *An Actor's Revenge* (*Yukinojo henge*, 1935–1936), as well as acting for other directors such as Nomura Hôtei, in films including *The Golden Demon* (*Konjiki yasha*, 1932), based on a novel by Ozaki Kôyô that had formed the basis of numerous *Shinpa* film adaptations; Futagawa Buntarô's *Yaji and Kita: Trouble About a Beauty* (*Yaji kita: Bijin sôdô*, 1932); Shimazu Yasujirô's *My Older Brother* (*Watashi no nisan*, 1934); and Gosho Heinosuke's *The Cuckoo* (*Hototogisu*, 1932) and *The Groom Talks in His Sleep* (*Hanamuko no negoto*, 1935).

With over a hundred films for Shochiku as Hayashi Chôjirô, he rose to become the company's most prominent *jidai-geki* star, although not all of his works were period films. However, after announcing he was leaving the studio, tempted by a better offer from the new rival **Toho**, on 12 November 1937 he was hospitalized following an attack by a thug wielding a razor. A 23-year-old Korean chauffeur, Kim Sei Kan, was arrested, although it was commonly believed that he had been hired by someone from Shochiku. Hasegawa refused to press charges, though a scar remained visible on his left cheek for the rest of his life.

After moving to Toho, Hasegawa began appearing under his real name, relinquishing the screen name of Hayashi Chôjirô to his old company. He appeared in numerous works for the studio during the **war**, including a star-studded version of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1939); several works for Kinugasa, who had also joined Toho, including *Snake Princess* (*Hebihimesama*, 1940); Abe Yutaka's *The Burning Sky* (*Moyuru ôzora*, 1940); and a number of films produced in China in conjunction with the **Manchuria Film Association**, in which he starred alongside Ri Kôran (see YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO).

During the Toho labor strikes of 1946, Hasegawa was part of the large exodus of technical staff and performers, led by the actor Ôkôchi Denjirô, who left to form **Shintoho**, appearing in the company's first film, *One Thousand and One Nights of Toho* (*Tôhō sen-ichi ya*, 1947), the first feature to be directed by **Ichikawa Kon** (under the name Nakamura Toshi). He appeared in a further three films for the new studio, including Watanabe Kunio's *Sakura Dance: Today We Dance* (*Sakura ondo: Kyô wa odotte*, 1947), leaving to produce several films in 1950 through his own company, Shin Engi-Za, originally established in 1946 for stage productions.

He subsequently moved to **Daiei**, where he was reunited with Kinugasa in films including *The Red Bat* (*Kuro kômorî*, 1950), *The Tale of Genji*:

The Floating Boat (*Genji monogatari: Ukifune*, 1957), and, most famously, the 1954 Cannes Palme d'Or winner, *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*, 1953). Hasegawa's roles for Daiei in the 1950s were numerous: he appeared in five to ten titles a year for the studio, with highlights including Yoshimura Kozaburô's *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari*, 1951); Mizoguchi Kenji's *The Crucified Lovers* (*Chikamatsu monogatari*, 1954); Watanabe Kunio's *Vendetta of the Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1958); Misumi Kenji's *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Yotsuya kaidan*, 1959; not to be confused with the **Nakagawa Nobuo** version of the same period **horror** story, released the same year by Shinto); and Ichikawa Kon's *An Actor's Revenge* (*Yukinojo henge*, 1963), for which he reprised his role in Kinugasa's 1935 original to mark his 300th film appearance. He appeared in just one other title after this, *Edo Cruelty* (*Edo mujô*, 1963), directed by Nishiyama Masateru, before leaving film to concentrate on stage and television work. He received the Japanese government's prestigious Shiju Hôshô (Purple Ribbon) award in 1965 and the Minister of Education Award in 1978. He died of a cerebral tumor on 6 April 1984.

HASUMI SHIGEHICO (蓮實重彦, 1936–). Hasumi Shigehiko is a film critic, novelist, and academic originally specializing in French literature, who has authored numerous books about cinema, including studies of Jean Renoir, John Ford, Howard Hawks, **Ozu Yasujirô**, and **Yamanaka Sadao**. His theories on cinema have proved highly influential to a generation of filmmakers who came of age in the 1990s, through his film courses held at Rikkyô University during the previous decade, notably **Aoyama Shinji**, Manda Kunitoshi, Shinozaki Makoto, and Shiota Akihiko,

HAYAKAWA SESSUE (早川雪洲, also 早川雪州, 1889–1973). Hayakawa Sessue is an actor of significant historical importance as one of the top movie performers of his day and the first non-Caucasian to gain international stardom. Primarily appearing in Hollywood productions, his roles in “yellow peril” narratives in the silent era, such as Cecil B. DeMille's *The Cheat* (1915), the film which made him famous, are indicative of the racial tensions and the way in which Asian people were regarded in the United States during this period. In the film, he plays a Japanese ivory merchant who sadistically brands his costar, Fannie Ward, as his property after she fails to return the money he has loaned her, although his nationality was changed to Burmese for the 1918 reissue (the only version to survive) following protests from Japanese communities in America, and the film was never released in Japan.

Indeed, such performances in stereotypical Asian roles (although he also played Latin Americans and Native Americans) caused some consternation

in his home country, just as Chinese critics were offended by the Hollywood appearances of his Chinese American contemporary Anna May Wong, whom he appeared alongside in a number of films, including his first talkie, *Daughter of the Dragon* (Lloyd Corrigan, 1931). Several of his early films, including *The Wrath of the Gods* (Reginald Barker, 1914) and *Alien Souls* (Frank Reicher, 1916), were imported to Japan but subsequently banned for bringing dishonor to the country.

Born Hayakawa Kintarô, the second son of a wealthy fisherman in Chiba Prefecture, Hayakawa first arrived in the United States in 1907, enrolling the following year to study political economy at the University of Chicago. After graduating, he worked in a series of menial jobs and began appearing in stage dramas for Japanese immigrants in Los Angeles. His first film appearance was a small part in *O Mimi San*, directed by Reginald Barker for the producer Thomas H. Ince and released in 1914, although star billing went to the Japanese actress Aoki Tsuru (born **Aoki Tsuruko**, 1892–1961), whom he married the following year. It is she who, it is believed, introduced Hayakawa to Ince.

Hayakawa appeared in over a dozen titles for Ince's New York Motion Pictures Company between 1914 and 1915, before leaving to join Famous Players Lasky. With the success of *The Cheat*, he became one of the most famous silent film stars of the day. In 1918, he founded the Haworth Pictures Corporation in order to retain more control of his image, but his popularity with American audiences waned considerably following developments during the next decade, such as the formation of the Japanese Exclusion League of California in 1920. He appeared in several films in France, Great Britain, and Germany throughout the rest of the decade, though while Hayakawa had to some extent redeemed himself with Japanese audiences through his Haworth films (imported by the company Kokkatsu), an attempted involvement with the **Pure Film Movement** during a brief return to Tokyo in 1922 failed to work out, despite his earlier association with Thomas Kurihara and Henry Kotani when they were working in Hollywood.

Nevertheless, during the tide of rising anti-Japanese sentiment in the 1930s, Hayakawa did return to appear in several Japanese productions, including *The Sun Rises in the East* (*Taiyô wa higashi yori*, 1932) for **Shochiku**, which he also directed; *Father and Son of Honorable Kusunoki* (*Nanko fushi*, Ikeda Tomiyasu, 1933), his first role in a **jidai-geki**; the militaristic *Bomber Pilots* (*Bakugeki hikôtai*, Saegusa Genjirô, 1934), *Araki Mataemon: Beyond the Nationally Famous Iga* (*Araki Mataemon: Tenka no Iga goe*, Katsumi Yotarô, 1934); and *Nichiren, Who Protects Japan* (*Kuni o mamoru Nichiren*, Sone Chiharu, 1935). His international profile also saw him cast in the German Japanese coproduction *Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937), produced by J.O. Studios (see KAWAKITA NAGAMASA; TOHO),

after which he moved to live in France until the end of the war while his wife and children remained in Japan.

Hayakawa returned to Japan in 1949. He appeared in *Tokyo Joe* (1949), a vehicle for Humphrey Bogart directed by Stuart Heisler and the first U.S. production to be filmed in the country after the war. Here his international stardom was put to use by Japanese companies eager to expand into international markets, including **Daiei**, for whom he played a Japanese immigrant to South America in Itô Daisuke's *Far Away Mother's Country* (*Harukanari haha no kuni*, 1950); and for Tôyoko Eiga (see TOEI), playing Jean Valjean in the two-part film version of *Les Misérables*, directed by Itô Daisuke and Makino Masahiro and released in 1950. However, his Americanized background meant he was never truly accepted as a Japanese star, and he returned to Hollywood, his final appearance in a Japanese film being a supporting role in *Get Angry! Rikidozan* (*Ikare! Rikidôzan*, 1956), directed by Ozawa Shigehiro for Toei and starring the eponymous professional wrestler.

Hayakawa is best known today for his performance as Colonel Saitô in David Lean's *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), after which he effectively retired, appearing only in minor roles. He was a serious practitioner of Zen Buddhism and published his autobiography, *Zen Showed Me the Way*, in 1960. After Aoki Tsuru's death, he returned to live in Japan and died on 23 November 1973.

HIBAKUSHA (被爆者). See ATOMIC BOMB.

HIDARI SACHIKO (左幸子, 1930–2001). Hidari Sachiko was among the most internationally highly regarded Japanese actresses during the 1960s, winning a Silver Bear Award for Best Actress at the 1964 Berlin Film Festival jointly for **Imamura Shôhei**'s *Insect Woman* (*Nippon konchûki*, 1963) and **Hani Susumu**'s *She and He* (*Kanojo to kare*, 1963). She was married to Hani from 1958 until their divorce in 1977 and appeared in his *Bride of the Andes* (*Andesu no hanayome*, 1966). Their daughter, Hani Mio (1964–), is now a famous journalist and social commentator.

Born Nugumura Sachiko, Hidari made her screen debut in the 1952 **Shinto** film *Mistakes of Young Days* (*Wakaki hi no ayamachi*), directed by Nomura Hiromasa. She was often cast in earthy, working-class roles or as prostitutes, with notable appearances including *The Black Tide* (*Kuroi ushio*, 1954), the second film directed by the actor Yamamura Sô (1910–2000); Ichikawa Kon's *A Billionaire* (*Okumanchôja*, 1954); Gosho Heinosuke's *The Cock Crows Twice* (*Niwatori wa futatabi naku*, 1954); **Masumura Yasuzô**'s *Warm Current* (*Danryû*, 1957); Kawashima Yûzô's *The Sun Legend of the End of the Tokugawa Era* (*Bakumatsu taiyôden*, 1957); Uchida Tomu's

Straits of Hunger (*Kiga kaigyō*, 1965); **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Under the Flag of the Rising Sun* (*Gunki hatameku moto ni*, 1972); Masumura's *Double Suicide of Sonezaki* (*Sonezaki shinjū*, 1978); and Paul Schrader's *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters* (1985). She also appeared regularly in television dramas from the 1960s onward, most notably as the mother in the Hokkaido-set *The Northern Family* (*Kita no kuni*, 1973–1974). Her last film appearance was in Suzuki Junichi's *Sukiyaki* (1995).

Hidari Sachiko's filmmaking career is also worthy of note, although she only made one title in her home country, *The Far Road* (*Toi ippon no michi*, 1977), considered to be the first Japanese feature planned, produced, and directed by a **woman**. This **independent production**, in which she also starred, was financed by the National Railway Workers' Union (*Kokutetsurō dōkumiai*) and written by Miyamoto Ken (the scriptwriter of Imamura's 1981 film *Eijanaika*). It was a drama about a railroad worker and his family, as their way of life is threatened by increased mechanization. She is also credited with an installment of *L'Amour Au Féminin* (1971; also known as *Hot Pants* and *Faire l'amour—Emmanuelle et ses soeurs*), an erotic omnibus film with episodes by directors from France, Germany, Sweden, and the United States, although Hidari's final segment was deleted from most prints.

HIROKI RYŪICHI (廣木隆一, 1954–). Like a number of noteworthy directors of his generation, Hiroki Ryūichi emerged from a background in **pink film**, working during the 1980s at Yū Pro alongside the company's founder, Nakamura Genji, a prolific filmmaker in his own right, and Mochizuki Rōkurō, later the director of the highly regarded **yakuza** films *Another Lonely Hitman* (*Shin: Kanashiki hittoman*, 1995) and *Onibi: The Fire Within* (*Onibi*, 1997). Here he made erotic films that were distributed by Million Film, such as his debut *Sexual Abuse! Exposed Woman* (*Seigyaku! Onna o abaku*, 1982); a trilogy of gay films for ENK, *Our Generation* (*Bokura no jidai*, 1983), *Our Season* (*Bokura no kisetsu*, 1983), and *Our Moment* (*Bokura no shunkan*, 1986); and several of **Nikkatsu's** harder bondage films under the pseudonym Ijūin Gō, including *The Sexual Abuse* (*Ze sekkan*, 1985) and *The Sacrifice* (*Ze ikenie*, 1986).

Hiroki has gone on from this background to become one of the most versatile directors of the past few decades. Following the *film noir* straight-to-video title *Sadistic City* (*Maōgai*, 1993) for Nikkatsu Video, he has turned his hand to commercial major studio projects such as *800 Two Lap Runners* (1994), a *seishun eiga* ("youth movie") about a *yakuza* member's son involved in the world of competitive track and field; *I Want to Make Love Until the Ski Slopes Melt* (*Gurende ga tokeru hodo koi shitai*, 1995), a romantic drama set in a New Zealand ski resort; *The Silent Big Man* (*Kikansha sensei*,

2004), the story of a teacher in a remote school in the Inland Sea who, despite being mute, gradually earns the respect of his pupils; and the teenage coming-of-age drama *Love on Sunday* (*Koi suru nichiyôbi*, 2006), a theatrical spin-off from a popular TBS television drama.

Alongside such works he has also realized a number of more personal projects. Several of these investigate the psychological, emotional, and physical aspects of dominance and submission pursued in his pink films in a more mature, mainstream fashion, and primarily from a female perspective. *I Am an SM Writer* (*Fukei no kisetsu*, 2000), based on a work by Japan's most prominent fetish writer Dan Oniroku, is a semicomical portrayal of the wife of an erotic novelist as she struggles for his attention; *L'Amant* (*Raman*, 2005) is the story of a high-school girl who seeks excitement by signing a one-year contract with three men to serve exclusively as their sex slave; *M* (2006) features a bored housewife who is a call girl by day, arranging her liaisons by mobile phone text messages; and *BAKUSHI, the Incredible Lives of Rope-Masters* (*Bakushi*, 2007) is a documentary depicting the relationship between *kinbaku* bondage performers and their models.

However, Hiroki is best noted for works that look at the emotional worlds of unfulfilled and lonely modern Japanese **women**, a concern that began in earnest with the digitally shot *Tokyo Trash Baby* (*Tôkyô gomi onna*, 2000), featuring Nakamura Mami as a café waitress who, after developing an obsessive crush on the aspiring rock star who lives in the apartment above her, takes to rifling through his garbage. His subsequent *Vibrator* (*Baiburêta*, 2003) and *It's Only Talk* (*Yawarakai seikatsu*, 2005), both benefiting from powerful performances by Terashima Shinobu and scripts by Arai Haruhiko, an important film critic and one-time scriptwriter for **Wakamatsu Kôji** and **Nikkatsu**, won numerous awards internationally and domestically. The former, shot on digital video, portrays a bulimic 30-year-old who falls short of the unrealistic expectations presented in glossy women's magazines and, on a whim, decides to travel across Japan in the cab of a truck driver she meets at a convenience store one night, while the latter portrays several days in the life of a manic depressive living in the soulless Tokyo suburb of Kamata, the original location of **Shochiku**'s studios.

HIROSHIMA (広島). See ATOMIC BOMB.

HISAISHI JÔ (久石譲, 1950–). Born Fujisawa Mamoru, Hisaishi Jô (often credited under the anglicized name Joe Hisaishi) is a composer best known for his scores for **Kitano Takeshi**, for whom he worked on numerous films between *A Scene at the Sea* (*Ano natsu, ichiban shizuku na umi*, 1991) and *Dolls* (2002), and **Studio Ghibli**. After working in the field of television

anime since 1974, releasing two solo albums in the minimalist/experimental/electronic genre—*MKWAJU* (1981) and *Information* (1982)—and scoring *Techno Police 21C* (*Tekonoporisu 21C*, 1982), a **Toho** theatrical *anime* directed by Matsumoto Masashi, he received a major career break when invited to score *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (*Kaze no tani no Naushika*, 1984) and has worked on all of **Miyazaki Hayao**'s subsequent works.

Other scores include the *anime* compendium *Robot Carnival* (*Robotto kânibaru*, 1987; see also ÔTOMO KATSUHIRO); Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's live-action adaptation of the cult *manga* by Umezu Kazuo, *The Drifting Classroom* (*Hyôryu kyôshitsu*, 1987), in which the American and Japanese students of an international high school and their teacher, played by Troy Donahue, are mysteriously transported to a hostile desert environment by a tornado; *Free and Easy 2* (*Tsuri baka nisshi 2*, Kuriyama Tomio, 1989), the second entry in **Shochiku**'s long-running everyman comedy series; the sci-fi **horror** film *Parasite Eve* (*Parasaito ibu*, Ochiai Masayuki, 1997); Satô Junya's *Yamato* (*Otoko-tachi no Yamato*, 2005), produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**; and **Takita Yôjirô**'s *When the Last Sword Is Drawn* (*Mibugishiden*, 2003) and *Departures* (*Okuribito*, 2008).

He has also scored foreign films such as the French live-action fairytale *Tom Thumb* (*Le petit poucet*, Olivier Dahan, 2001); the Korean film *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (Park Kwang-Hyun, 2005); and the Chinese productions of *A Chinese Tall Story* (*Qing dian dai sheng*, Jeffrey Lau, 2005), *The Postmodern Life of My Aunt* (*Yi ma de hou xian dai sheng huo*, Anne Hui, 2006), and *The Sun Also Rises* (*Tai yang zhao chang sheng qi*, Wen Jiang, 2007). As well as regular work on television dramas, computer games, and advertisements (CMs), he has released numerous albums of his music and in 2001 directed his own film, *Quartet* (*Karutetto*), about four young musicians who form a string ensemble.

HONDA ISHIRÔ (本多猪四郎, 1911–1993). Honda Ishirô (often incorrectly credited as Honda Inoshirô in Western sources) is a director most strongly associated with *kaijû eiga*, a genre he effectively launched single-handedly with *Godzilla* (*Gojira*, 1954). He made a further seven sequels, with his last, *Terror of Mechagodzilla* (*Mekagojira no gyakushû*), released in 1975, and numerous other entries in the field, including *Rodan* (*Sora no daikaijû Radon*, 1956); *Varan the Unbelievable* (*Daikaijû Baran*, 1958); *King Kong Escapes* (*Kingu Kongu no gyakushû*, 1967); and *Yog: Monster from Space* (*Gezora Ganime Kamêba kessen! Nankai no daikaijû*, 1970), his first film in the genre following the death of his regular collaborator, special-effects director **Tsuburaya Eiji** (the effects work here was done by Nakano Teruyoshi).

Alongside films featuring giant monsters, Honda also directed a number of other *tokusatsu* films in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres, including *Half Human* (*Jûjin yukiotoke*, 1955), a film about the abominable snowman released in the West with new footage featuring John Carradine; *The Mysterians* (*Chikyû bôeigun*, 1957), about an alien invasion; *The H-Man* (*Bijo to ekitai ningen*, 1958), in which atomic testing in the Pacific creates slime men who live in Tokyo's sewers; *The Human Vapor* (*Gasu ningen daiichigô*, 1960), in which a librarian is transformed into a murderous gas after a scientific experiment goes awry; and *Matango* (*Matango*, 1963), in which a group of rich vacationers are shipwrecked on a deserted island and transformed into fungoid creatures after eating the strange, exotic mushrooms that grow there. A fear of radiation, following the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, dominated much of Honda's work (see ATOMIC BOMB).

All of Honda's films were released by **Toho** studios, which he began working with in its early incarnation as P.C.L. in 1933. After working as an assistant on films by directors including Yamamoto Kajirô, **Naruse Mikio**, and **Kurosawa Akira**, such as *Horse* (*Uma*, 1941) and *Stray Dog* (*Nora inu*, 1949), his first credited works as a director were the *bunka eiga* **documentary** shorts *Ise Shima* (1949) and *A Story of a Co-Op* (*Kyôdô kumiai no hanashi*, 1950). He made his feature debut in 1951 with *The Blue Pearl* (*Aoi shinjû*), which boasted impressive special effects work in its underwater scenes of women divers.

Other works include the **war** films *Eagle of the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô no washi*, 1953) and *Farewell Rabaul* (*Sayonara Rabauru*, 1954) and the dramas *Young Tree* (*Wakai ki*, 1956), the two-part *A Rainbow Plays in My Heart* (*Waga mune ni niji wa kiezu*, 1957) and *Seniors, Juniors, Co-Workers* (*Uwayaku, Shitayaku, Godôyaku*, 1959). At the end of his career, Honda assisted his long-term friend Kurosawa Akira on his final five films, beginning with *Kagemusha* (1980).

HORROR. Comparative historiographies describing the horror genre's evolution in Japan within a global context have generally started by citing as landmarks known Western releases, such as one of the earliest Japanese films to play overseas (although not a trace of the film remains today), *Pasion of a Woman Teacher* (*Kyôren no onna shishô*, 1926), based on the 19th-century writer **Sanyûtei Enchô**'s story *The Ghost of Kasane Swamp* (*Shinkei kasanegafuchi*), and *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953), one of the first to gain widespread international acclaim, adapted from a story by Ueda Akinari (1734–1809) published in 1776. However, it should be noted that both titles, directed by one of the world's great filmmakers, **Mizoguchi Kenji**, belonged

within a wider cinematic culture of which little has been seen overseas and, from the prewar period, very little survives.

The question remains as to what extent horror, as the term is understood today, existed as a genre within Japanese cinema prior to the **J-Horror** boom of the late 1990s, and how much it was shaped by indigenous literary or dramatic traditions rather than foreign influences. For example, **Tanizaki Junichirô** mentioned a number of important European precursors to the genre in his early essays and short stories, written before he adapted Ueda Akinari's supernatural tale *Ugetsu monogatari* as *The Lust of the White Serpent* (*Jasei no in*) for Taikatsu in 1921, while Mizoguchi drew upon the fantastical works of the German Romantic author E. T. A. Hoffman in his 1923 film *Blood and Spirit* (*Chi to rei*) (both films are considered lost).

However, films based on local folktales and legends containing supernatural elements have existed since the domestic industry's first narrative features. The filmography of the early pioneer **Makino Shôzô** includes titles such as *Yoshiwara Ghost Story: Gestures of the Bonze* (*Yoshiwara kaidan teburi bôzu*, 1914), *Broken Dishes at the Haunted Mansion* (*Banchô sarayashiki*, 1914), *A Hundred Ghost Tales of the Muromachi Palace* (*Muromachi goten hyakkaiden*, 1914), and *Taro of Ban: Tasuke Isshin Exterminates Ghosts* (*Ban no Tarô: Isshin Tasuke yôkai taiji*, 1914), and though none survive today, descriptions of the director's work suggests that supernatural subjects lent themselves well to his early experiments with trick photography, as they had for George Méliès in France a decade previously.

Works based on the *kaidan* stories of Sanyûtei Enchô, such as *Tales of the Peony Lantern* (*Botan dôrô*), have existed since 1910 (five versions of this particular story alone, including one shot in 1914 by Makino, were made before 1930), while *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Tôkaidô Yotsuya kaidan*), based on a Kabuki play written by Tsuruya Nanboku IV (1755–1839) in 1825, appears to have been filmed by the **Yoshizawa Company** as early as 1911. This tale of Iemon, an unemployed *ronin* who is haunted by the ghost of Oiwa, the wife he has killed, has been recounted on film on numerous occasions, including Itô Daisuke's *Yotsuya Ghost Story, New Version* (*Shinban Yotsuya kaidan*, 1928) for **Nikkatsu**, **Kinoshita Keisuke**'s two-part *The Yotsuya Ghost Story* (*Tôkaidô Yotsuya kaidan*, 1949) for **Shochiku**, Toyoda Shirô's *Illusion of Blood* (*Yotsuya kaidan*, 1965) for **Toho**, and **Fukasaku Kinji**'s *Crest of Betrayal* (*Chûshingura gaiden: Yotsuya kaidan*, 1994) for Shochiku, which combined the story with the **Chûshingura** legend. It even provided the template for several erotic versions of the tale made for the **pink film** market, including Ogawa Kinya's *Ghost Story Dismembered Phantom* (*Kaidan bara bara yûrei*, 1968) and *New Ghost Story Heretical Lust: Oiwa's Vengeful Ghost* (*Shin kaidan shikiyoku gedô: Oiwa no onryô Yotsuya kaidan*, 1976), both released by Ôkura Eiga.

Nakagawa Nobuo, who directed the first color version of *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Tôkaidô Yotsuya kaidan*) in 1959, is often seen as a key figure in pioneering the Japanese horror film and in a studio, **Shintoho**, which was eager to attract audiences with more populist subject matter. Still, it is worth noting several trends leading up to Nakagawa's highly influential work in the field. The *ero guro nansensu* literary boom that emerged in the 1920s saw a number of adaptations of the works of its most famous practitioner, **Edogawa Rampo**, while the lineage of the *kaijû eiga*, or monster movie, can be traced back as far as Saitô Torajirô's *King Kong, Japanese Style* (*Wasei Kingu Kongu*, 1933) for **Shochiku** and the long-lost *King Kong Appears in Edo* (*Edo ni arawareta Kingu Kongu*, Kumaga Sôya, 1938), before emerging as one of the country's core genres with the release of *Godzilla* (*Gojira*, 1954), directed by **Honda Ishirô**. Another of Universal Studio's popular movie monsters, who first appeared in James Whale's *The Invisible Man* (1933), found himself transposed to Japan in *The Transparent Man Appears* (*Tômei ningen arawaru*, Adachi Nobuo, 1949) and *The Transparent Man and the Human Fly* (*Tômei ningen to hae otoko*, Murayama Mitsuo, 1957) for Daiei, and *The Transparent Man* (*Tômei ningen*, Oda Motoyoshi, 1954) for **Toho**.

Alongside these foreign influences, some of which might be more aptly situated in the field of science fiction, more localized horror traditions thrived, again deriving from legends and Edo-period Kabuki, such as *Ghost Story: Fox and Raccoon* (*Kaidan: Kitsune to tanuki*, 1929), directed by Yoshino Jirô at Makino Productions, and the "ghost cat" (*bakeneko* or *kaibyô*) films, typically featuring a vengeful spirit that manifests itself in the form of a beautiful catlike woman. Dozens of such films were made following the earliest cinematic treatments of the subgenre's key sources, *Legend of the Ghost Cat of Arima* (*Arima kaibyô-den*), first filmed in 1914; *The Cat of Okazaki* (*Okazaki no neko*), made by Makino Shôzô in 1914; and *Ghost Cat of Saga* (*Saga no bakeneko*), first filmed in 1916 by Tenkatsu. Examples of these films include *Arima Cat Upheaval* (*Arima neko sôdô*, Saitô Hakkô, 1936) for the short-lived Kyokutô Eiga company (1935-1941); *Legend of the Saga Cat Monster* (*Saga kaibyô-den*) and *Ghost Cat of Arima* (*Arima neko*), both directed by Mokutô Shigeru in 1937; Ushihara Kiyohiko's *Ghost Cat's Mysterious Shamisen* (*Kaibyô nazo no shamisen*, 1938) for Shinkô Kinema (see DAIEI), all starring Suzuki Sumiko as the ghostly cat woman; and *Ghost Cat Oil Hell* (*Kaibyô abura jigoku*, Kumaga Sôya, 1940) for Zenshō Kinema (1936-1940). The tightening industry during wartime resulted in the type of smaller production houses that specialized in such films either disappearing or being assimilated into the larger companies, with government directives around the time of the Film Law actively discouraging such frivolous subject

matter, while the Occupation's early blanket ban on period dramas kept traditional ghost stories from the screen until 1949, when the *bakeneko* genre re-emerged with several films, including Watanabe Kunio's *Ghost Cat of Nabeshima* (*Nabeshima kaibyô-den*, 1949) for Shintoho. During the 1950s, Daiei released several films featuring Irie Takako (see WOMEN) in the role of the ghost cat, including two directed by Arai Ryôhei, *Ghost of Saga Mansion* (*Kaidan Saga yashiki*, 1953) and *Ghost Cat of Arima Palace* (*Kaibyô Arima goten*, 1953); Kato Bin's *Ghost Cat of the Okazaki Upheaval* (*Kaibyô Okizaki sôdô*, 1954) and *Cat Ghost of Ouma Cross* (*Kaibyô Ômagatsuji*, 1954); and Tasaka Katsuhiko's *Ghost Cat of Yonaki Swamp* (*Kaibyô Yonaki numa*, 1957). Later examples include Nakagawa Nobuo's *Black Cat Mansion* (*Bôrei kaibyô yashiki*, 1958) and Ishii Teruo's *Blind Woman's Curse* (*Kaidan nobori-ryû*, 1970), starring Kaji Meiko.

Horror production during the 1950s rested largely in the hands of Shintoho and Daiei, with Nakagawa at the former studio often credited as the first to formulate the genre along Western lines. However, Nakagawa was just one of several directors, all of whom also worked in other genres, who came to specialize in the field. Others horror films made at Shintoho, for example, include Magadani Morihei's *Devil of Ghost Snake Mansion* (*Yôjasô no maô*, 1957), *Girl Divers at Spook Mansion* (*Ama no bakemono yashiki*, 1959), and *Blood Sword of the 99th Virgin* (*Kyûjûkyû honme no kimusume*, 1959), and Watanabe Kunio's *Grudging Ghost: Great Trouble at Sakura* (*Onryô Sakura dai-sôdô*, 1956), starring the former silent star Arashi Kanjûrô. After Shintoho went bankrupt in 1961, its producer, Ôkura Mitsugi, established a new company, Ôkura Eiga, which initially continued making low-budget *kaidan* works directed by Kobayashi Satoru, who had followed him from the studio, including *Okinawa Hanging Phantom Ghost Story* (*Okinawa kaidan sakasazuri yûrei*, 1962), *Ghost Story Phantom Foreigner* (*Kaidan ijin yûrei*, 1963), and *Ghost Story Cruel Phantom* (*Kaidan zankoku yûrei*, 1964), before the success of Kobayashi's *Flesh Market* (*Nikutai ichiba*, 1962) led to its eventually switching its focus entirely to the *eroduction* market.

Whereas a number of Japanese *kaidan* adaptations had circulated overseas during the 1950s and 1960s, the first, after Mizoguchi's *Ugetsu*, to gain major critical success was Kobayashi Masaki's *Kwaidan* (*Kaidan*, 1964), a four-part omnibus of traditional ghost tales originally compiled for English-language publication in 1903 by the Irish Japanologist Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904, also known as Koizumi Yakumo). Originally running at 183 minutes (although foreign prints ran shorter), this lavish **Toho** production won the Jury Special Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1965 and was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 1966 Academy Awards, although it was criticized in Japan for pandering to foreign tastes. **Shindô Kaneto's** indepen-

dently produced *Onibaba* (1964) and *Kuroneko* (*Yabu no naka no kuroneko*, 1968) also played the international art-house circuit to critical acclaim.

During the latter half of the 1960s, Shochiku also entered the market for horror films, with titles including *Ghost of the Hunchback* (*Kaidan semushi otoko*, Satô Hajime, 1965), modeled on the gothic horrors from Europe that had played in Japan; *Cruel Ghost Legend* (*Kaidan zankoku monogatari*, Hase Kazuo, 1968); *Goke, Body Snatcher from Hell* (*Kyûketsuki Gokemidoro*, Satô Hajime, 1968), whose vampiric invader from space presented an allegory for the Vietnam War; and *The Living Skeleton* (*Kyûketsu dokurosen*, Matsuno Hiroshi, 1968). At around the same time, Daiei began the *Yokai Monsters* trilogy of children's films with its colorful parade of apparitions drawn from folklore and Edo-period woodcuts, consisting of *Yokai Monsters: 100 Monsters* (*Yôkai hyaku monogatari*, Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1968), *Yokai Monsters: Spook Warfare* (*Yôkai daisensô*, Kuroda Yoshiyuki, 1968), and *Yokai Monsters 3: Along with Ghosts* (*Tôkaidô obake dôchû*, Yasuda Kimiyoshi and Kuroda Yoshiyuki, 1969).

During the 1970s and 1980s, horror became a more marginal genre, with adaptations of traditional sources making way for more anomalous, Western-inspired releases such as Toho's trilogy of Japanese Dracula films directed by Yamamoto Michio, *Legacy of Dracula* (*Yûreiyashiki no kyôfu: Chi o suu ningyô*, 1970), *Lake of Death* (*Noroi no yakata: Chi o suu me*, 1971), and *Evil of Dracula* (*Chi o suu bara*, 1974); Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's colorful, teen-oriented ghost story, *House* (*Hausu*, 1977), also for Toho; and the three *Evil Dead Trap* (*Shiryô no wana*) films, with the first entry in 1988, directed by Ikeda Toshiharu and written by Ishii Takashi, owing much to the works of David Cronenberg, Dario Argento, and Sam Raimi's seminal splatter movie *The Evil Dead* (1981).

The directors **Shinoda Masahiro** and Yoshida Kijû, both major figures in the **Japanese New Wave** of the 1960s, also contributed films that can be situated within the genre. Shinoda's *Demon Pond* (*Yashagaike*, 1979), an adaptation of a novel by Izumi Kyôka (1873–1939) about a drought-stricken village cursed by an evil spirit who lives in a pond on its boundaries, draws heavily on Kabuki theater's modes of presentation, and Yoshida's *Onimaru* (*Arashi-igaoka*, 1988), which relocated Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights* to medieval Japan, adopts a style indebted to the Western gothic tradition.

Some accounts of Japanese horror also include in their timeline the more violent entries in the pink film genre and Nikkatsu's **Roman Porno** line, such as Hasebe Yasuharu's *Assault! Jack the Ripper* (*Bôkô kirisaki Jakku*, 1976), about a meek young man drawn to rape and murder by a female colleague at the café where he works, and the *Angel Guts* series, based on the manga of Ishii Takashi, beginning with Sone Chûsei's *High School Coed: Angel Guts*

(*Jokôsei: tenshi no harawata*, 1978), featuring the conflicts within a gang of thugs plotting to rape a schoolgirl. However, while such titles might have thematic correlatives in the Western “rape and revenge” subgenre represented by films like Wes Craven’s *Last House on the Left* (1972) and Meir Zarchi’s *I Spit on Your Grave* (1978), the local specifics of their production circumstances and their intended market make such comparisons inappropriate in discussions of Japanese horror.

However, the fantastical content and awareness of similar trends in the “extreme gore” subgenre produced in other countries mean that pornographic *ero guro* titles like *Entrails of a Beautiful Woman* (*Bijo no harawata*, 1986) and *Entrails of a Virgin* (*Shojo no harawata*, 1986), directed by Komizu Kazuo (as Gaira), and the *Guinea Pig* (*Ginîpigu*, 1985–1991) series of straight-to-video ersatz snuff movies, beginning with the *Guinea Pig: The Devil’s Experiment* (*Ginîpigu: Akuma no jikken*, 1985; no director credited, although several later episodes were directed by the horror *manga* artist Hino Hideshi) warrant consideration in studies of the genre. The media scare surrounding the arrest of the child murderer Miyazaki Tsutomu in 1989 brought about an overall tightening of screen **censorship**, with the distributor of the final *Guinea Pig* installments, Japan Home Video, bringing an end to this cheaply produced yet profitable line.

The company’s toning down of its productions to appeal to a wider, more teen-oriented demographic resulted in the **V-Cinema** series *Scary True Stories* (*Honto ni atta kowai hanashi*, 1991–1992, Tsuruta Norio), based on a *manga* series of the same name, which established many of the motifs of the J-Horror genre of the 1990s and 2000s, each video comprised of three 30-minute stories (note, a series of the same name featuring various directors was also produced by TV Asahi Corporation in 1992). Other significant horror films of this period include Ichikawa Jun’s *No Life King* (*Nô raifu kingu*, 1989), whose tale of a cursed computer game anticipated Nakata Hideo’s highly influential *Ring* (*Ringu*, 1998) and its emulators; *Sweet Home* (*Suito hômu*, 1989), a Japanese variant on *Poltergeist* (Tobe Hooper, 1982) produced by Itami Jûzô and directed by Kurosawa Kiyoshi; and *The Guard from Underground* (*Jigoku no keibiin*, 1992), a rare Japanese example of the slasher/serial killer movie, made by the same director.

The late 1990s saw the field becoming particularly bankable for producers such as Ichise Takashige, with a number of titles including the *Ring* (*Ringu*, 1998) updating elements of the Edo-period tales of ghostly revenge to contemporary settings. As well as proving highly popular at the domestic box office, the genre provided a fertile source of remakes by American studios, leading to a new wave of international interest. *See also* J-HORROR.



ICHIKAWA KON (市川崑, 1915–2008). Maintaining a steady directing output throughout seven successive decades, Ichikawa Kon lays claim to one of the longest filmmaking careers anywhere in the world, having worked in a diverse array of genres at several of Japan’s major studios. Born in Mie Prefecture in 1915, inspired by the works of Disney, he initially harbored ambitions of becoming an animator and during the 1930s entered the animation department of J.O. rental studios in Kyoto (*see ANIME*). In 1937, when J.O. was merged with P.C.L. to form the new company **Toho**, this department was dissolved, leaving Ichikawa alone to work on the stories, scripts, designs, and editing for a number of animated short commercial and PR films.

Ichikawa was soon elevated to the position of assistant director on live-action feature films, moving to Tokyo to work under a number of directors, including Itami Mansaku (the father of **Itami Jûzô**) and Abe Yutaka (1895–1977). As a mark of respect for his early mentor, Ichikawa remade Abe’s 1926 comedy *The Woman Who Touched Legs* (*Ashi ni sawatta onna*) in 1952. During the war he worked on a 20-minute adaptation of the Kabuki play *A Girl at Dojo Temple* (*Musume Dôjôji*, 1945), filmed as a live-action puppet animation. The film was never actually released, being banned by the Occupation authorities due to its “traditional” feudal subject matter, and it was long believed lost, although a print has subsequently been discovered and is archived in the Cinémathèque Française in Paris. Ichikawa later returned to live-action puppet animation with *Topo Gigio and the Missile War* (*Toppo Jijo no botan sensô*, 1967), an Italian coproduction with a strong antiwar message featuring a talking mouse popular on Italian children’s television.

While at **Toho**, Ichikawa met Wada Natto (1920–1983), whom he married in 1948. Wada would become a regular collaborator on her husband’s films, writing many of their screenplays until her death in 1983. Ichikawa left the company during its labor strikes in 1946 and moved to Shintoho, directing the studio’s first production, *One Thousand and One Nights of Toho* (*Tôhō sen-ichi ya*, 1947), which depicted a fictional film shoot, under the pseudonym Nakamura Toshi. He made his official directing debut in 1948 with

A Flower Blooms (*Hana hiraku*), although he later returned periodically to Toho throughout his career.

Ichikawa always considered himself a contract director rather than an *auteur* and worked in genres from *jidai-geki* and **war** movies (with a pacifist message) to satirical contemporary comedies such as *Pu-san* (*Pû-san*, 1953), based on a popular newspaper cartoon strip, and *A Billionaire* (*Okumanchôja*, 1954). However, with works such as the *taiyôzoku* drama *Punishment Room* (*Shokei no heya*, 1956), an adaptation for **Daiei** of a novel by **Ishihara Shintarô**, and *Ten Dark Women* (*Kuroi jûnin no onna*, 1961), the tale of the wife and nine mistresses of a TV producer who band together to plot his death if none can be the only woman in his life, he is seen as a crucial figure in the modernization of Japanese cinema during the classical period of the 1950s.

Another notable aspect of Ichikawa's filmography is the large number of literary adaptations, including *Kokoro* (1955) and *I Am a Cat* (*Wagahai wa neko de aru*, 1975) by Natsume Sôseki; *Nihonbashi* (1956) by Izumi Kyôka; *Conflagration* (*Enjô*, 1958), based on **Mishima Yukio's** *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*; Tanizaki Junichirô's *The Key* (*Kagi*, 1959, released overseas as *Odd Obsession*) and *The Makioka Sisters* (*Sasameyuki*, 1983); and Ôoka Shôhei's *Fires on the Plain* (*Nobi*, 1959).

Ichikawa received a large degree of acclaim for his films abroad, with *Odd Obsession* (*Kagi*, 1959) and *Her Brother* (*Otôto*, 1960) both competing for the Palme d'Or at Cannes and respectively winning the Jury Prize in 1960 and the Technical Grand Prize in 1961. *An Actor's Revenge* (*Yukinojo henge*, 1963), a stylistically innovative remake produced by **Daiei** of **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** three-part serial of the same name (1935–1936) about a vengeful *oyama*, or female impersonator (see **WOMEN**), was released to mark the 300th film appearance of **Hasegawa Kazuo**, also the star of the original films, and was widely circulated abroad. The antiwar drama *Harp of Burma* (*Biruma no tategoto*, 1956), remade by the director in 1985, and the 170-minute **documentary** of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, *Tokyo Olympiad* (*Tôkyô orinpikku*, 1965), were also highly acclaimed internationally, despite the latter proving controversial at home.

Ichikawa continued directing into the next millennium, with titles including *The Wanderers* (*Matatabi*, 1973) produced in conjunction with the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG) and detailing the beginnings of the **yakuza**; the thrillers *The Inugami Family* (*Inugami-ke no ichizoku*, 1976), produced by **Kadowaka Haruki**, and *The Noh Mask Murders* (*Tenkawa densetsu satsujin jiken*, 1991); a feature-length animation about the *Shinsengumi* (2000) for Fuji TV; and *Dora Heita* (2000), based on an original script written several decades before with the "Four Knights Group" (*Yonki no kai*) comprised of Ichikawa, **Kinoshita Keisuke**, **Kurosawa Akira**, and Kobayashi Masaki. His final

works before his death at the age of 92 were the 30th-anniversary remake of *The Inugami Family* (2006) and a segment in the 10-part omnibus *Ten Nights of Dreams* (*Yume jû-ya*, 2006), based on Natsume Sôseki's 1908 compendium of stories of the same name.

IMAMURA SHÔHEI (今村昌平, 1926–2006). Imamura Shôhei is, along with **Ôshima Nagisa**, one of the best known names associated with the **Japanese New Wave** and one of the most internationally renowned directors of his generation, with two Palme d'Or Awards at Cannes Film Festival for *The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*, 1983) and *The Eel* (*Unagi*, 1997). His work, characterized by an almost **documentary** style of filming, typically focused on the lower orders of Japanese society, with a strong emphasis on **women**, drawing a contrast between its vibrant and instinctive, premodern traditions and its more rational modern demeanor to explore concepts of “Japanese-ness.”

Imamura made much use of animal metaphors in his films, notably in *Pigs and Battleships* (*Buta to gunkan*, 1961), about the impoverished community of slum-dwellers and black market operators who survive off the scraps from the nearby U.S. naval base of Yokosuka; *Insect Woman* (*Nippon konchûki*, 1963), starring **Hidari Sachiko** as a country girl who works her way up to owning her own brothel after arriving in Tokyo; and *The Eel* (1997), starring **Yakusho Kôji** as a man convicted of murder who attempts to rehabilitate into society following his release by setting up a barber shop in a small rural community, with the pet eel he raised in the prison pond linking him to his past.

The son of a doctor, after graduating from Tokyo's Waseda University, Imamura began his career at **Shochiku**'s Ôfuna studios in 1951, where he worked as an assistant on several films by **Ozu Yasujirô**. Feeling restricted by the environment of the company, he moved to the newly reopened **Nikkatsu** in 1954, where he became assistant to Kawashima Yûzô, working on scripts for a number of his films, including what is held to be his mentor's masterpiece, *The Sun Legend of the End of the Tokugawa Era* (*Bakumatsu taiyôden*, 1957). Imamura made his debut in 1958, with three films released in the same year: *Stolen Desire* (*Nusumareta yokubô*), about an itinerant acting troupe performing a popular form of Kabuki for the working classes; *Nishi Ginza Station* (*Nishi Ginza eki-mae*), an uncharacteristic musical comedy; and *Endless Desire* (*Hateshi naki yokubô*), in which a group of characters search for a buried stash of morphine hidden by the Americans at the end of the war.

Imamura's work quickly deviated from the more populist path associated with Nikkatsu at the time, who were then known for their youth-oriented *tai-yôzoku* and Nikkatsu Action genre pictures typified by the work of **Masuda**

Toshio, and embraced more socially relevant concerns, often with a satirical twist. *My Second Brother* (*Nianchan*, 1959) portrayed a poor **zainichi** family in a mining town in Kyushu, the story told through the diary of its 10-year-old daughter. It was followed by *Pigs and Battleships* (1961); *Insect Woman* (*Nippon konchûki*, 1963); and *Intentions of Murder* (*Akai satsui*, 1964), about a woman who escapes the confines of a loveless marriage when she runs off with a burglar who breaks into her house and rapes her.

His work in the latter half of the 1960s was produced through his own **independent** company, Imamura Productions. *The Pornographers* (*Erogotoshitachi yori: jinruigaku nyûmon*, 1966), based on Nosaka Akiyuki's novel about a man who makes his living making and selling 8mm pornographic films, and *The Profound Desire of the Gods* (*Kamigami no fukaki yokubô*, 1968), which portrayed a clash of cultures when an engineer from Tokyo arrives on a remote southern Japanese island whose inhabitants still live in near stone-age conditions, were both distributed by Nikkatsu. *A Man Vanishes* (*Ningen jôhatsu*, 1967), an experimental documentary initially focused on a missing husband, was coproduced by the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG). He also produced Itsumi Tadahiko's *East China Sea* (*Higashi Shina-kai*, 1968) through this company.

Imamura took a break from feature film production in the 1970s to continue his exploration of the documentary form initiated by *A Man Vanishes* in a series of films that dealt with issues of Japanese identity and history. These include *History of Postwar Japan as Told by a Bar Hostess* (*Nippon sengoshi: Madamu Onboro no seikatsu*, 1970) and *Karayuki-san, the Making of a Prostitute* (*Karayuki-san*, 1975), about a woman forced to work in overseas brothels during Japan's period of militarist expansion, a subject he would return to in the fiction film *Zegen* (1987), as well as several works for television. In 1975, he established the Yokohama School of Broadcasting and Film (Yokohama Hôshô Eiga Senmon Gakuin); the school continues to this day, though it has been renamed the Japan Academy of Moving Images (or Nihon Eiga Gakkô). He also served as the production planner on **Hara Kazuo's** *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (*Yuki yukite shingun*, 1987).

Imamura's return to fiction with *Vengeance Is Mine* (*Fukushu suru wa waga ni ari*, 1979), an account of a serial killer's destructive spree across Japan, was critically well-received in Japan, earning him awards for Best Director from **Kinema Junpô**, the Japan Academy, and the Blue Ribbon Award as voted by the popular sports newspapers. This resulted in a feature film career revival in the 1980s, with works including *Eijanaika* (1981), a portrait of the lives of the lower orders as the Meiji era dawned and Japan opened itself up to the rest of the world; *The Ballad of Narayama* (1983), a more docu-realist version of the story first filmed by **Kinoshita Keisuke** in 1958 about a vil-

lage community who abandon their old to die on a mountaintop when they reach the age of 70; *Zegen* (1987); and *Black Rain* (*Kuroi ame*, 1989), based on the novel by Ibuse Masuji (1898–1983), about a family's suffering in the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima (see ATOMIC BOMB).

Following Imamura's second Palme d'Or with *The Eel*, Imamura made *Dr. Akagi* (*Kanzô-sensei*, 1998), about an affable but ineffectual family doctor in the last days of World War II, and *Warm Water Under a Red Bridge* (*Akai hashi no shita no nurui mizu*, 2001), a bizarre fable about a woman who discharges gallons of water when she makes love. His final work as a director was an installment of the international omnibus film *11'09''01—September 11* (2002), his story about a World War II veteran who returns home convinced he is a snake. Imamura's eldest son, Tengan Daisuke (born Imamura Daisuke), worked alongside his father as a scriptwriter from *The Eel* onward, with other script credits including Miike Takashi's *Audition* (*Ôdishon*, 2000) and *Imprint* (*Inpurinto: Bokke kyote*, 2006). He is also a director in his own right, whose works include *Aiki* (2002), about a young man confined to a wheelchair in a road accident who learns to overcome his disability through the martial art of aiki-jujutsu, and *The Most Beautiful Night in the World* (*Sekai de ichiban utsukushii yoru*, 2008) about the scandalous origins of a rural village said to have the highest birthrate in Japan.

IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES (愛のコリータ, *AI NO KORÎDA*, 1976). The French–Japanese coproduction *In the Realm of the Senses* depicts the infamous real-life scandal known as the Abe Sada Incident, in which, on 21 May 1936, a lowly geisha named Sada Abe was found wandering around the streets of Tokyo in possession of the severed penis of her lover, Ishida Kichizô, the proprietor of the inn where she was working. This version by **Ôshima Nagisa** was the third film based on the incident, which had previously been filmed by Ishii Teruo as one of the installments in the omnibus film *Meiji Era, Taisho Era, Showa Era: Bizarre Woman Crime History* (*Meiji Taishô Shôwa: ryôki onna hanzai-shi*, 1969), with Sada played by Kagawa Yukie and the real Abe Sada herself appearing in a cameo, and the **Roman Porno** film *A Woman Called Abe Sada* (1975), directed by Tanaka Noboru and starring Miyashita Junko. The story has been subsequently filmed by Ôbayashi Nobuhiko for **Shochiku** as *Sada* (1998), and by Mochizuki Rokurô as *Johnen: Sada's Love* (*Jônen: Sada no ai*, 2008).

Ôshima's version is notorious for including explicit unsimulated sex scenes between its main leads Matsuda Eiko, who plays Sada, and Fuji Tatsuya, a former **Nikkatsu** star popular in the 1960s, who plays Kichi. These can be read simultaneously as a critique of the disingenuous approach to erotic material of Nikkatsu's Roman Porno films, and more broadly of Japan's strict

censorship laws, which Ôshima saw as arbitrary, hypocritical, and restrictive in comparison with the increasing levels of freedom permitted to Western filmmakers at the time. The film also alludes to the rising tide of militarism in the year of the incident, to situate Sada and Kichi's *amour fou* within the wider national madness sweeping Japan: the Marco Polo Bridge Incident marked the beginning of the second Sino-Japanese **War**.

The film was financed by French producer Anatole Dauman and filmed at **Daiei**'s studios in Kyoto, with the negative footage containing the sexually explicit material processed in France. Production responsibilities in Japan were handled by **Wakamatsu Kôji**, with **Sai Yôichi** working as assistant director. It was released in France on 15 September 1976 as *L'Empire des Sens*, the title referencing *L'Empire des Signes* ("Empire of Signs"), Roland Barthes's semiological treatise on Japan published in 1970. It was released in Japan as *Ai no korîda* (*The Bullfight of Love*) by **Toho** in 16 October 1976 in a heavily censored version, although Ôshima was prosecuted for public obscenity when a book containing essays, the script, and stills from the film was published in Japan. Though highly regarded by critics worldwide for its intelligent treatment of its subject matter, in other territories its distribution was either limited to festival screenings or, in the cases of the 1976 Berlin and New York film festivals, banned outright. As such the film has long provided a benchmark in the art-versus-pornography debate.

INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION. Definitions of what is meant by the term "independent film" (*dokuritsu eiga*) are complicated, owing much to the historical and industrial context of the national cinema in question. In its strictest usage, it refers to any film made outside the major studio system, but it is often used loosely to refer to a perceived oppositional stance, either aesthetic or political, taken by the filmmakers rather than an industrial matter of fact. Disregarding this equation between "independent" and "nonmainstream" cinema, following the stricter first definition and developments in the structure of the industry from the late 1970s onward, independent production has come to predominate in Japan. In 2000, the three largest of the surviving major studios, **Toho**, **Toei**, and **Shochiku**, released only 57 films through their distribution arms, in contrast to the 225 produced by "independent" companies, and over half of these were not actually produced in-house but by outside interests. This is a marked turnaround from the Golden Age (*Ôgon jidai*) of the 1950s, when the industry was conducted along a vertically integrated model, with the six studios (including **Daiei**, **Nikkatsu**, and **Shinto** alongside the aforementioned three) controlling production, distribution, and exhibition. In essence the studios' exhibition of their productions through their own chains of cinemas left few opportunities for independent productions to be screened.

To understand the changing connotations of what is meant by independent production, it is necessary to go back to the formative years of the studio system, following the establishment of Nikkatsu in 1912, with smaller rivals in the market such as Taikatsu, Tenkatsu, and Kokkatsu appearing and disappearing or being assimilated into larger companies during the ensuing decade. During this time, the studios controlled the use of their production facilities and the availability of imported film stock. When **Makino Shôzô** left Nikkatsu in 1921 to form what can be described as the first independent production company, Makino Education Motion Picture Studios (*Makino Kyôiku Eiga Seisaku-jo*), through which he made films under contract for the Education Ministry, he faced considerable financial and logistical difficulties, operating from a small wooden building and using his own children as actors. Soon after changing its name to Makino Motion Picture Company (*Makino Eiga Seisaku-jo*), the company was absorbed into the new company Tôa Kinema in 1924, which had emerged the previous year and was now counted among the four major companies (alongside Nikkatsu, Shochiku, and Teikine). These four subsequently established the Japanese Film Producers Association in 1925 with the aim of stifling competition from the smaller companies by threatening to withhold their own films from exhibitors who showed independent films, although this only had a limited and short-lived effect on the market.

From an early stage in the development of the industry, it became clear that the contracted, salaried performers were among the larger studios' more substantial assets. Following the lead of **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, who established his own independent company, Bantsuma Pro, in September 1925, a host of other actors capitalized on their star power and left their studios, with Ichikawa Utaemon forming his own company, Uta Pro, in 1927, followed by Arashi Kanjûrô and Kataoka Chiezô in 1928. The first **woman** star to establish her own production company was Irie Takako, who established Irie Pro in 1932, attracting some of the top directors of the day to work for her in the dozen films she appeared in between 1932 and 1936, which include **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *The Dawn of Manchuria and Mongolia* (*Manmô kenkoku no reimei*, 1932) and *The Water Magician* (*Taki no shiraito*, 1933), Kimura Keigo's *White Lotus* (*Byakuren*, 1932), and Abe Yutaka's *Light: With a Sin* (*Hikari: Tsumi to tomo ni*, 1933). Interestingly, this phenomenon recurred in the 1960s, with **Ishihara Yujirô** and **Mifune Toshirô** both establishing their own companies in 1963 and Katsu Shintarô in 1967.

Still, in these formative decades cinema was a resolutely populist medium, and the economic realities of the industry meant that organizations such as the **Proletarian Film League of Japan**, or Prokino, a filmmaking collective that circumvented the system by making and circulating left-wing **documenta-**

ries and newsreels using amateur equipment, and more artistically motivated productions such as *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*, 1926), directed by **Kinugasa Teinosuke**, remained anomalous. Furthermore, developments in the early 1930s such as the arrival of sound and the construction by Kobayashi Ichizô in 1933 of several luxury theaters in Tokyo with greater seating capacities (see TOHO) made it even more difficult for smaller companies to compete in an increasingly competitive market. Such independent studios disappeared in a complex series of mergers and acquisitions, and with increasing government intervention following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of 1937 (see WAR AND FILM), for a brief period from 1937 the industry was dominated by only two studios, Shochiku (which briefly took over Nikkatsu) and Toho, both of which received substantial revenues from their interests outside of film production and exhibition. As cinema fell further under state control following the passing of the **Film Law** in 1939, any vestiges of an independent sector vanished completely until the end of World War II.

In the postwar period, a number of directors who had previously worked within the studio system mounted independent productions. **Shimizu Hiroshi** made his first film since his departure from Shochiku, *Children of the Beehive* (*Hachi no su no kodomotachi*, 1948), which was distributed by Toho. As the Cold War worsened with the beginning of the Korean War, the red purges across all industries ordered by the commander of the Occupation forces, General Douglas MacArthur, resulted in a large number of employees being expelled from the major studios of Daiei, Shochiku, and Toho on 25 September 1950, leading to the establishment of several smaller production companies by former staff members who had been forced from their positions or, anticipating the situation, had left beforehand. **Iwasaki Akira**, the former head of production at Nichiei, whose association with Marxist ideology stretched back to his involvement with the Prokino group, was a central figure within Shinsei Eiga, a company founded by former Toho union members in February 1950, which produced several politically charged works by Imai Tadashi and **Yamamoto Satsuo** (who later set up his own independent company, Yamamoto Pro, in 1955). In April, **Shindô Kaneto** and Yoshimura Kôzaburô left Shochiku to establish Kindai Eiga Kyôkai, while Gosho Heinosuke founded Studio Eight Productions (*Eito Puro*) in October, also with several former Toho employees. His first production, *Dispersing Clouds* (*Wakaregumo*, 1951), was followed by works including his highly regarded *shomin-geki* *Where Chimneys Are Seen* (*Entotsu no mieru basho*, 1953), all of which were distributed by the nonunionized Shintoho.

Because of their lack of studio backing, such social realist films benefited from the documentary-style veracity brought about by the necessity of location shooting. It is no surprise that other pioneers of independent cinema

who would be hailed as part of the **Japanese New Wave** of the 1960s, such as **Hani Susumu** and **Teshigahara Hiroshi**, also came from a documentary background (*see also* IWANAMI PRODUCTIONS). The public resignation of **Ôshima Nagisa** from Shochiku in 1960 led to directors, including **Imamura Shôhei**, forming their own production companies, although their works were often distributed by the major studios, including the Art Theatre Guild (ATG), which received substantial support from Toho. Nevertheless, the breakdown in the major studios' monopoly of exhibition led to an explosion in independent production, significantly in the exploitation field represented by the *eroduction*, or **pink film**, industry, which to this day represents the most significant industry sector for independent production in terms of sheer volume of output. Like Prokino, documentary directors like **Ogawa Shinsuke** also explored alternative exhibition possibilities outside the orthodox theatrical network. Concurrent with these developments was the emergence of an experimental film scene, centered around collectives such as the Nihon University Film Study Club (*Nihon Daigaku Eiga Kenkyû-kai*, or *Nichidai Eiken*); avant-garde artists drawn from other disciplines like **Terayama Shûji**; or individual practitioners like Takabayashi Yôichi, Iimura Takahiko, Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, and **Donald Richie**.

As film output as a whole dropped along with cinema attendance in the 1970s, and the surviving major studios consolidated their positions by focusing on popular genres, the most significant developments of the decade were the establishment in 1977 of Image Forum and the inauguration of **PIA Film Festival** (PFF) to promote amateur filmmaking. With the major studios no longer hiring apprentices, the latter in particular provided a valuable entry point into the industry for a new wave of newcomers (*see also* JISHU EIGA). The situation became more complex during the late 1970s and 1980s, with the arrival of producers such as **Kadokawa Haruki** bringing substantial capital from outside the film industry and the emergence of new organizations such as Argo Pictures, the **Director's Company**, and Kitty Film, all financing their productions through a variety of sources and with varying degrees of control over distribution and exhibition. The major studios also distributed many films produced by newly established subsidiary units or third parties. This has been linked to a corresponding decrease in politically conscious or radical works, although **Yanagimachi Mitsuo's** *Fire Festival* (*Himatsuri*, 1985), financed by the Seibu Group of department stores, who were then looking to expand their interests into the arts, is a noteworthy example of a film whose artistic merits created significant interest both at home and overseas.

The growth of new distribution outlets such as video, broadcast satellite (BS), and cable TV and the increasing investment by the major television companies has resulted in a large increase in such complex brokering deals

since the late 1980s, with most productions now financed by a number of different parties in return for exclusive stakes in the revenues from box-office bookings, international sales, television rights, and video presales. This gave rise to a new wave of maverick producers like Ichise Takashige (*see* J-HORROR) and Sentô Takenori during the 1990s, inspiring an increase in the output, diversity, and arguably the artistic ambitions of the industry as a whole. As such, independent production can currently be considered the standard model in modern Japanese cinema.

ISHIHARA SHINTARÔ (石原慎太郎, 1932–). Ishihara Shintarô is a novelist, screenwriter, and politician who has served as the governor of Tokyo since 1999, attracting a considerable degree of controversy both from within and outside of Japan for his right-wing views, such as those contained in his book *The Japan That Can Say No*, published in 1989, with an English translation appearing in 1991. He is the elder brother of the actor **Ishihara Yujirô** who, after appearing in Furukawa Tarumi's adaption of his sibling's *Season of the Sun* (*Taiyô no kisetsu*, 1956), became a major star at the studio that released it, **Nikkatsu**.

Season of the Sun launched the briefly popular *taiyôzoku* or “Sun Tribe” genre, which reveled in portraying a hedonistic and usually fairly affluent generation of postwar baby boomers running riot throughout the country. The Ishihara brothers became firmly identified with the trend, which lasted from the late 1950s to the early 1960s, with Yujirô starring in Shintarô's next work to be adapted, this time scripted by the author, *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*, 1956), directed by Nakahira Kô and released within two months of the previous film. **Daiei** reacted swiftly to the success of the genre, with **Ichikawa Kon** filming Ishihara's *Punishment Room* (*Shokei no heya*, 1956), released between the two Nikkatsu titles, as did **Toho**, who adapted Ishihara's *Summer in Eclipse* (*Nisshoku no natsu*, 1956), directed by Horikawa Hiromichi, and *Engagement Ring* (*Konyakuyubiwa*, 1956), directed by Matsubayashi Shûei. Ishihara also directed his only film, *Young Beast* (*Wakai kemono*, 1958), for Toho.

The success of such films saw Ishihara working as a screenwriter at Nikkatsu for a brief period, with scripts that include **Masuda Toshio**'s *Rusty Knife* (*Sabita naifu*, 1958) and several Kurahara Koreyoshi titles, including his debut *I Am Waiting* (*Ore wa matteru ze*, 1957), which starred Yujirô, *A Man in the Fog* (*Kiri no naka no otoko*, 1958), and *The Woman Who Came from the Bottom of the Sea* (*Kaitei kara kita onna*, 1959), Ishihara's final script for the studio. Subsequent screenwriting has been sporadic, but includes *Punishment Island* (*Shokei no shima*, 1966), an adaptation by **Shinoda Masahiro** of a novel by Takeda Taijun about a wartime reform colony for

delinquent boys on a remote island; and two works directed by Shinjô Taku, *Secret Festival* (*Hisai*, 1998), about an island community disrupted by plans for a large resort hotel, and the controversial *For Those We Love* (*Ore wa, kimi no tame ni koso shini ni iku*, 2007), about wartime kamikaze pilots (*tok-kôtai*). Adapted novels by Ishihara include Kawashima Yûzô's *The Thief of Kisses* (*Seppun dorobô*, 1960); several works by Masuda, including *Tree of Youth* (*Seinen no ki*, 1960), *What Is Youth?* (*Seishun to wa nan da*, 1965), and *Spartan Education: Go to Hell, Dad* (*Suparuta kyôiku: Kutabare oyaji*, 1970); and Shinoda's *Pale Flower* (*Kawaita hana*, 1964), released by **Shochiku**, and *The Petrified Forest* (*Kaseki no mori*, 1973).

ISHIHARA YUJIRÔ (石原裕次郎, 1934–1987). Ishihara Yujirô was a phenomenally popular actor and singer who was launched into stardom following a brief appearance in *Season of the Sun* (*Taiyô no kisetsu*, 1956), an adaptation of the novel written by his brother **Ishihara Shintarô** that launched the *taiyôzoku* genre. He starred in the follow-up, Nakahira Kô's *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*, 1956), and appeared in a lesser role in Kawashima Yûzô's period film *The Sun Legend of the End of the Tokugawa Era* (*Bakumatsu taiyôden*, 1957).

Ishihara rapidly became the biggest star at the company **Nikkatsu**, starring in around 90 popular youth-oriented action or musical films for the studio until it initiated its **Roman Porno** erotic film line in 1971. These include *The Man Who Raised a Storm* (*Arashi o yobu otoko*, Inoue Umetsugu, 1957), about a delinquent who aspires to be a jazz drummer; *Crimson Wings* (*Kurenai no tsubasa*, Nakahira Kô, 1958); and *Ginza Love Story* (*Ginza no koi no monogatari*, Kurahara Koreyoshi, 1962). His most frequent roles were for **Masuda Toshio**, in titles such as *Rusty Knife* (*Sabita naifu*, 1958), *Red Quay* (*Akai hatoba*, 1958), *Tree of Youth* (*Seinen no ki*, 1960), *Red Handkerchief* (*Akai hankachi*, 1964), *What Is Youth?* (*Seishun to wa nan da*, 1965), and *Kill the Night Rose* (*Yoru no bara o korose*, 1966). He also appeared in *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* (1965), a British comedy directed by Ken Annakin set in the early days of aviation.

Ishihara established his own company, Ishihara Promotion, in 1963 (see INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION). His first title, *Alone Across the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô hitori-botchi*, 1963), directed by **Ichikawa Kon** and based on a true story of a young man who crossed the Pacific in a small yacht, was released by Nikkatsu, like many of his own productions, which included *Taking the Castle* (*Shirotori*, 1965) and *Challenge for Glory* (*Eikô e no chôsen*, 1966), both directed by Masuda. Nikkatsu also released his coproduction with **Mifune Toshirô**'s company Mifune Pro, *Kurobe Dam* (*Kurobe no taiyô*, 1968), an atypical work for its director **Kumai Kei**, in which Mifune starred as an

engineer heroically battling against labor disruptions and natural forces to dig a tunnel through the Japanese Alps for the construction of a massive dam. However, *Safari 5000* (*Eikô e no 5000 kiro*, Kurahara Koreyoshi, 1969) was distributed by **Shochiku**. Shot on location in Africa and starring Ishihara as a competitor in the famous Safari Rally, it was the highest-grossing film of its year.

During the 1970s, Ishihara began to appear more regularly on television, with his company producing only a small number of theatrical works, the best known of which are the lightweight *chanbara* action titles *Shadow Hunters* (*Kagegari*, 1972), in which he played against Asaoka Ruriko, the actress with whom he regularly appeared at Nikkatsu, and its sequel, *Shadow Hunters: Echo of Destiny* (*Kagegari: Hoeru taihō*, 1972), both directed by Masuda and released by **Toho**. Ishihara also appeared alongside Mifune, Asaoka, and **Katsu Shintarō** in Inagaki Hiroshi's final film, *Ambush at Blood Pass* (*Machibuse*, 1970), produced by Mifune Pro and released by Toho. Ishihara himself did not appear in his company's final two works, *Cockroach Detective* (*Gokuburi keiji*) and its sequel, *The Cockroach* (*Za gokuburi*), two police action movies with the former Nikkatsu Action star Watari Tetsuya, both directed by Kotani Shūsei and released by Toho in 1973.

Following this, Ishihara Promotion entirely moved away from film into other entertainment media, predominantly television drama, a field in which it continued long after Ishihara succumbed to liver cancer on 17 July 1987. Ishihara's final theatrical roles include voicing Captain Harlock in *Space Pirate Captain Harlock: Arcadia of My Youth* (*Waga seishun no Arukadia*, 1982), an *anime* directed by Katsumata Tomoharu and based on the *manga* series created by Matsumoto Leiji, and Yahagi Toshihiko's *Again* (*Agein*, 1984), which starred Shishido Jō.

ISHII SÔGO (石井聰互, 1957–). Ishii Sôgo is a pioneering figure who emerged from the exploding amateur *jishu eiga* scene of the late 1970s to become a commercial feature director, paving the way for others including **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, Morita Yoshimitsu, and Nagasaki Shunichi. His 8mm short *Panic in High School* (*Kôkô dai panikku*, 1977), which he directed when he was 20, depicted a high-school student who holds up his school at gunpoint following the suicide of one of his classmates due to the pressure of his studies. The film's underground reputation led to its remake as a feature by **Nikkatsu** in 1978, in what might have been Ishii's studio debut, at a time when the major companies were abandoning their long-established trainee system. However, though Ishii is credited as codirector alongside Sawada Yukihiro, the extent of his involvement is not clear, and the film remains his only credit for a major studio.

Instead Ishii returned temporarily to *jishu eiga* filmmaking, with titles including *Attack! Hooligans of Hakata* (*Totsugeki! Hakata Gurentai*, 1978), a feature-length 8mm work that was selected for the second **PIA Film Festival** (PFF), before directing *Crazy Thunder Road* (*Kuruizaki sandô rôdo*, 1980), a tale of urban warfare involving gangs of bikers and ultranationalists. Realized as his graduation project from Nihon University, it was released by the **Toei** subsidiary Toei Central Film after being blown up from 16mm to 35mm. A former musician himself, Ishii also directed promotional videos and live concert films for a number of punk groups of the era, utilizing the music and band members as actors in early works such as *Burst City* (*Bakuretsu Toshi*, 1982), which were characterized by a raucous, anarchic sensibility quite unlike anything ever seen in Japanese cinema. His abrasive caricature of the modern nuclear family unit made at the **Director's Company** and distributed by **ATG**, *Crazy Family* (*Gyakufunsha kazoku*, 1984), was his last feature for almost a decade, although he continued to direct concert films such as *1/2 Mensch* (*Noibauten: Hanbun ningen*, 1986), which featured the German industrial band Einstürzende Neubauten.

Ishii returned to fiction filmmaking with *Tokyo Blood* (1993), one of a number of short films commissioned by the producer Sentô Takenori (see **HORROR**; KAWASE NAOMI) as part of the *J Movie Wars* series for the satellite broadcasting station WOWOW, with other works by young directors including Nagasaki Shunichi and **Sai Yôichi**, who remade his entry *All Under the Moon* (*Tsuki wa dotchi ni dete iru*) as a feature the same year (see **ZAINICHI**). Ishii's next films were marked by a more measured and meditative ambience, while retaining their experimental air. *Angel Dust* (*Enjeru dasuto*, 1994) was a hypnotic thriller about a psychiatrist who is called in to assist a police hunt for a serial killer, possibly linked to a religious cult, who haunts Tokyo's subways, dispatching his victims with a poisoned syringe (see **AUM SHINRIKYÔ**). *August in the Water* (*Mizu no naka no hachigatsu*, 1995) was an eccentric mixture of high-school drama and New Age fantasy set in Ishii's hometown of Fukuoka, in which a double meteor strike in the area causes local inhabitants to turn to stone. *Labyrinth of Dreams* (*Yume no ginga*, 1997), based on a story by Yumeno Kyûsaku (see **ERO GURO NANSENSU**), was a dreamlike tale set in the 1930s of a provincial bus conductress who falls in love with her driver (**Asano Tadanobu**), who may well be a murderer.

In 2000, Ishii renewed his collaboration with Sentô, who had now become a major figure in promoting a new wave of Japanese **independent** directors overseas, producing works through his SunCent Cinema Works (*Sansento shinema wâkusu*) company, launched in 1998 as a subsidiary of WOWOW. These works include **Kawase Naomi's** *Hotaru* (2001), **Aoyama Shinji's** *Eureka* (*Yurika*, 2001), Manda Kunitoshi's *Unloved* (2001), Suwa Nobuhiro's

M/Other (1999; see YAMAGUCHI MOMOE), and Furumaya Tomoyuki's *Bad Company* (*Mabudachi*, 2001). Sentô produced Ishii's first period film and highest-budgeted work to date, the swordplay fantasy *Gojoe* (*Gojô reisenki: Gojoe*, 2000), and *Electric Dragon 80.000 V* (2001), a near-plotless synergy of sound and image shot in monochrome and featuring Asano and Nagase Masatoshi as two superhero adversaries pitted against each other. Unfortunately *Gojoe* was a resounding box-office failure that effectively put an end to Sentô's endeavor at SunCent. Ishii's subsequent work has been sporadic and includes *Dead End Run* (2003), an omnibus of three extended chase scenes shot digitally with a particular emphasis on the sound design, and the more sedate *Mirrored Mind* (*Kyôshin*, 2005), which followed an actress' quest for inner peace from the bustling metropolis of Tokyo to the more natural tropical haven of Bali.

ITAMI JÛZÔ (伊丹十三, 1933–1997). Born Ikeuchi Takehiko, the son of director Itami Mansaku (b. Takeuchi Yoshitoyo, 1900–1946; see *DAUGHTER OF THE SAMURAI*), Itami Jûzô was an actor turned director whose films such as *Tanpopo* (*Tanpopo*, 1985), a comedy about a *ramen* shop owner's quest for the perfect soup noodles that featured the actor **Yakusho Kôji**, were both popular with domestic audiences and often circulated overseas. He was married to Kawakita Kazuko, the daughter of **Kawakita Nagamasa**, between 1960 and 1966, and the actress Miyamoto Nobuko, who appeared in many of his films, from 1969 until his mysterious death in 1997.

As an actor, Itami's roles include *Don't Like, Don't Like, Don't Like* (*Kirai kirai kirai*, 1960), his acting debut directed by Edagawa Hiromu at Daiei; **Masumura Yasuzô's** *A False Student* (*Nise daigakusei*, 1960); **Ichikawa Kon's** *Ten Dark Women* (*Kuroi jûnin no onna*, 1961), *I Am a Cat* (*Wagahai wa neko de aru*, 1975; see ANIMAL MOVIE) and *The Makioka Sisters* (*Sa-sameyuki*, 1983); the Hollywood productions *55 Days at Peking* (Nicholas Ray, 1963) and *Lord Jim* (Richard Brooks, 1965); Katô Tai's *History of a Man's Face* (*Otoko no kao wa rirekisho*, 1966); **Ôshima Nagisa's** *A Treatise on Japanese Bawdy Songs* (*Nihon shunka-kô*, 1967); **Wakamatsu Kôji's** *The Notorious Concubines* (*Kinpeibai*, 1968); Koreyoshi Kurahara's *Safari 5000* (*Eikô e no 5000 kiro*, 1969), alongside **Ishihara Yujirô**; Fujita Toshiya's *Lady Snowblood 2: Love Song of Vengeance* (*Shurayukihime: Urami renka*, 1973), starring **Kaji Meiko**; **Terayama Shûji's** *The Grass Labyrinth* (*Kusa meikyû*, 1978/1983); Morita Yoshimitsu's *Family Game* (*Kazoku gêmu*, 1983); and the **horror** film *Sweet Home* (*Sûito hômu*, 1989), which Itami also produced, directed by **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**.

Itami's films as a director, which he also scripted and produced through his company, Itami Productions, were comedies that satirized contemporary

Japanese society, and include his debut, *The Funeral* (*Osôshiki*, 1984); the two *A Taxing Woman* (*Marusa no onna*, 1987 and 1988) films, in which his wife Miyamoto played a tax inspector; *Ageman* (1990), about a geisha who leaves her profession to work in a bank; and *Supermarket Woman* (*Sûpâ no onna*, 1996). He also directed the serious drama *A Quiet Life* (*Shizuku na seikatsu*, 1995), based on Ôe Kenzaburô's writing about his autistic son Hikari, now a famous composer. Itami's comedy had a more serious side, however. After the release of *Minbo—Or the Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion* (*Minbô no onna*, 1992), in which the owner of a prestigious Tokyo hotel wages war against the gangster mob who are extorting money from him, he was attacked by five members of the Gotô-gumi gang, furious at his unheroic portrayal of the *yakuza*. The five men received custodial sentences of four to six years. Itami's resulting spell in the hospital inspired *The Last Dance* (*Daibyônin*, 1993), a critique of the Japanese healthcare system, featuring the actor Mikuni Rentarô as a film director with terminal cancer. His final film was *Woman in Witness Protection* (*Marutai no onna*, 1997), in which Miyamoto played an actress who witnesses a murder linked to a religious cult and is assigned two bungling police guards as protection. On 20 December 1997, Itami leaped from the roof of the building containing his office in what is suspected to have been suicide over allegations about his private life.

IWANAMI PRODUCTIONS (IWANAMI EIGA SEISAKUSHO, 岩波映画製作所). Iwanami Productions was a filmmaking unit established in 1950 by the publishing company Iwanami Shôten to produce advertising, educational, and public relations **documentary** films for the cinema and later television. In the early years, the administration proved unusually flexible in leaving its staff free to experiment, and its output had a key effect on the documentary field. It also produced documentary-style fiction films like **Hani Susumi's** *Bad Boys* (*Furyô shônen*, 1961).

Important filmmakers to emerge from the studio in the documentary field include **Ogawa Shinsuke** and many of the staff of Ogawa Productions, including cinematographer **Tamura Masaki**; **Haneda Sumiko** (*see also* WOMEN); and Tsuchimoto Noriaki, who made over a dozen films on the plight over a number of decades of those subjected to mercury poisoning by industrial pollution in the coastal waters around the fishing community of Minamata. Feature fiction directors to come from Iwanami include Hani Susumi, Kuroki Kazuo, and Higashi Yôichi. The unit disbanded in 1998.

IWASAKI AKIRA (岩崎昶, 1903–1981). Iwasaki Akira was a left-wing film historian, critic, and producer. He played an instrumental role in the release of **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** experimental art film *A Page of Madness*

(*Kurutta ippêji*, 1926) and was one of the central figures in the formation of the **Proletarian Film League of Japan** in 1929, of which he was a central member until its dissolution in 1934. He wrote numerous articles of film and social criticism, with early books including *History of Film* (*Eiga geijutsu-shi*, 1930), *Proletarian Film Knowledge* (*Puroteria eiga no chishiki*, 1932), *Film and Capitalism* (*Eiga to shihonshugi*, 1931), *On Cinema* (*Eiga-ron*, 1936), and *Film and Reality* (*Eiga to genjitsu*, 1939).

In January 1940, he was arrested for violating the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) of 1925, due to the leftist content of his writing and his overt criticism of the restrictions on the industry imposed by the **Film Law**, and was detained until 22 February 1941 (see also KAMEI FUMIO). After the war he became head of production for Nichiei, producing Itô Sueo's thwarted attempt to make *The Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (*Hiroshima, Nagasaki ni okeru genshibakudan no kôka*), which was confiscated by the Occupation authorities, and Kamei's *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeki*, 1946), which was suppressed due to its defamatory portrayal of Emperor Hirohito.

While continuing his activities as a critic, Iwasaki also played a central role in the short-lived **independent** company Shinsei Eiga, founded in February 1950 by a group of purged former **Toho** union members to produce socially engaged work from a left-wing perspective. This work included **Yamamoto Satsuo's** *Street of Violence* (*Pen itsuwarazu: bôryokugai*, 1950) and *Vacuum Zone* (*Shinkû chitai*, 1952), a harsh critique of conditions within the army during the **war**, and Imai Tadashi's *And Yet We Live* (*Dokkoi ikiteiru*, 1951), a drama focusing on the desperate plight of impoverished slum-dwellers, filmed in the Italian neorealist vein. Though this marked an effective end to his involvement with the industry on the production side, he continued to write about film until his death, with his memoirs, *Occupied Screen: My Postwar Story* (*Senyô sareta sukurin: Waga sengoshi*) published in 1975.

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JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY (NICHIBEI ANZEN HOSHÔ JÔYAKU, 日米安全保障条約). *See* ANPO AGREEMENT.

JAPANESE NEW WAVE (NIHON NÛBERU BÂGU, 日本ヌーヴェルヴァーグ). The term Japanese New Wave is used loosely to encompass a number of trends, movements, and developments that emerged during the 1960s, a time that saw a decline in core audience attendance matched by a reduction in the output of the major studios due to the increasing prevalence of television, and a consequent explosion in **independent production**. Characteristics of the films that are considered a part of this movement include a preoccupation with political subject matter, predominantly with a left-wing interpretation; history; cultural identity; youthful rebellion, and sexuality; and a more formally experimental, self-reflective style that attempted to reconceive a national cinema within an international context and break from the classical cinema of the past.

The first major instance of the term being used was in relation to the filmmakers **Shinoda Masahiro**, Yoshida Kijû, and **Ôshima Nagisa** at **Shochiku** studios, who were publicly promoted by the studio under the brand of the Shochiku Nouvelle Vague (*nûberu bâgu*), each making his debut while still under the age of thirty, in an attempt by the studio to appeal to a new demographic of postwar baby boomers. All three later left Shochiku to produce their work independently, led by Ôshima, who resigned publicly when his fourth film, *Night and Fog in Japan* (*Nihon no yoru to kiri*, 1960), which examined the failure of collective leftist politics to halt the renewal of the **Anpo Agreement**, was pulled from distribution by the studio.

Other key figures associated with the New Wave include the independent pioneers **Teshigahara Hiroshi**, **Shindô Kaneto**, and **Hani Susumu**; documentarists such as the Ogawa Pro collective that formed around **Ogawa Shinsuke**; the more experimental directors working in the field of the **pink film**, such as **Wakamatsu Kôji** and Adachi Masao; as well as directors who either hailed from the major studio system and went independent, like **Imamura Shôhei**, or those who remained within it throughout the period, such as **Masumura Yasuzô** (at **Daiei**) and **Suzuki Seijun** (at **Nikkatsu**).

Central to the development of this alternative cinema in Japan was the involvement of the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG), founded in 1961, and the fortunes of the directors associated with the Japanese New Wave were closely linked to the fortunes of this exhibition, distribution, and production organization. Though the term is used rather broadly to refer to a number of disparate filmmaking movements, it is possible to say that New Wave was effectively over by the beginning of the 1970s.

JAPANIMATION. *See ANIME.*

J-HORROR. With the international success of Nakata Hideo's *Ring* (*Ringu*, 1998), at the beginning of the millennium Far Eastern filmmaking territories such as Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, and, in particular, Japan, came to be seen as a wellspring for original, contemporary-set supernatural horror films, with the Japanese films popularly described under the label J-Horror.

Often featuring vengeful, usually female ghosts (*onryō*), the stylistic and thematic concerns of the films of the J-Horror wave of the late 1990s, with their spare visual approach, measured pacing, and paranoid evocation of technology as a source of fear, evolved at the beginning of the decade, through V-Cinema releases such as Japan Home Video's three-installment *Scary True Stories* (*Honto ni atta kowai hanashi*, 1991–1992, Tsuruta Norio) and television productions such as Kansai TV's long-running *Haunted School* (*Gakkō no kaidan*, 1994–2001) series for younger viewers, whose first theatrical spin-off was directed by Hirayama Hideyuki in 1995. Other teen-oriented titles from the 1990s that preceded the boom include Satō Shimako's adaptations of Koga Shinichi's *Eko Eko Azarak* series of *manga* about a teenage girl who uses magic to battle the powers of darkness lurking in her high school, which comprise of *Wizard of Darkness* (*Eko eko azaraku: Wizard of Darkness*, 1995) and its two sequels, *Birth of the Wizard* (*Eko eko azarak II*, 1996) and *Misa the Dark Angel* (1998), and a 1997 television spin-off series; and Zeze Takahisa's first feature outside the **pink film** genre, *Kokkuri* (*Kokkuri-san*, 1997), about three girls who play with a Ouija board.

Ring and many of the titles made in its immediate aftermath were produced by Ichise Takashige and Senin the ctō Takenori and executive produced by Hara Masato, and were distributed on double bills by **Toho**. Typical J-Horror films include the eight *Tomie* films (beginning with Oikawa Ataru's eponymous entry in 1999 and lasting until 2011), based on a series of *manga* by Itō Junji about a beautiful but evil high-school girl who invokes jealous displays of violence in all the men who fall in love with her and is repeatedly reincarnated every time she is killed; Nagasaki Shunichi's *Shikoku* (1999), a tale of love from beyond the grave set in the island province of the title (as

written in Japanese, the character for “death” is substituted for that of “four” in the name of the smallest of the islands that comprise the country); Mizutani Toshiyuki’s *Isola* (*Isola: Tajū jinkaku shōjo*, 2000), about a psychic girl with multiple personalities rescued from the ruins of the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake; Higuchinsky’s *Uzumaki* (2000), adapted from an Itô Junji *manga* about a small town inexplicably besieged by deadly spirals; Tsuruta Norio’s *Kakashi* (2001), another Itô adaptation, this time featuring ghostly scarecrows in a remote rural community; Shimoyama Ten’s *St John’s Wort* (*Otogirisō*, 2001), a haunted house thriller staged within a virtual reality video game; and **Miike Takashi**’s *One Missed Call* (*Chakushin ari*, 2004) and its two sequels, directed by Tsukamoto Renpei and Asô Manabu respectively, in which characters receive cell phone messages from their future selves warning of their imminent deaths.

A number of J-Horror titles have been remade in the United States, including **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**’s *Pulse* (*Kairo*, 2001; by Jim Sonzero in 2006) and **Nakata Hideo**’s *Dark Water* (*Honogurai mizu no soko kara*, 2002; by Walter Salles in 2005), with *Ring* and Takashi Shimizu’s *Ju-on* series (two **V-Cinema** films *Ju-on: The Curse* and *Ju-on: The Curse 2* from 2000 followed by the theatrical versions *Ju-on: The Grudge* and *Ju-on: The Grudge 2*, both released in 2003) developing into their own Hollywood franchises. Nakata Hideo followed Gore Verbinski’s 2003 American remake of *The Ring* with *The Ring Two* (2005), while Shimizu directed *The Grudge 1* (2004) and *The Grudge 2* (2006), starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. Ichise, producer of both original films and their sequels, developed the J-Horror Theater (*J Horâ Shiatâ*) line in 2006, a series of Japanese productions aimed at capitalizing on the overseas popularity of the genre, though only three of the six originally mooted titles have been released thus far: *Infection* (*Kansen*, Ochiai Masayuki, 2004), *Premonition* (*Yogen*, Tsuruta Norio, 2004), and *Reincarnation* (*Rinne*, Shimizu Takashi, 2006). The Ichise productions of Kurosawa Kiyoshi’s *Retribution* (*Sakebi*, 2006) and Nakata Hideo’s *Kaidan* (2007) have been released outside of this line, while Ichise also worked as one of the producers on the 2008 remake of the Thai movie about “spirit photography,” *Shutter* (2004, Banjong Pisanthanakun and Parkpoom Wongpoom), directed by Ochiai Masayuki and filmed in Tokyo. The poor critical and commercial reception of both *Shutter* and Eric Valette’s *One Missed Call* (2008) signals that the remake cycle has run its course.

While J-Horror is usually associated with a particular style of modern Japanese ghost story, the exact derivation of the term is unclear, and it has come to be used more generally to describe any horror film produced in Japan. Other horror films produced around the period that deviate from the formula include Muroga Atsushi’s *Junk* (*Junk: Shiryô-gari*, 2000), about a group of

jewel thieves battling zombies in a deserted factory; Takeuchi Tetsurô's *Wild Zero* (1999), a horror comedy featuring the rock band Guitar Wolf, about an alien invasion that causes the dead to rise; and Kitamura Ryûhei's *Versus* (2001), a gory action picture featuring gangsters fighting reanimated corpses. In the late 2000s, the American distributor Media Blasters started coproducing a number of Japanese gore films for the overseas cult market that also were released in Japan, including *Death Trance* (*Desu toransu*, Shimomura Yûji, 2006), *Machine Girl* (*Kataude mashin gâru*, Iguchi Noboru, 2008), and *Tokyo Gore Police* (*Tôkyô zankoku keisatsu*, Nishimura Yoshihiro, 2008). In 2009, Shimizu Takashi filmed *The Shock Labyrinth* (*Senritsu meikyû 3D*, 2009), the first Japanese horror film shot in 3D, following the international trend established by Hollywood.

JIDAI-GEKI (時代劇). *Jidai-geki* refers to fictional films set in Japan's premodern era, prior to the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which brought about the country's reorganization as an industrial, capitalist state constructed along Western lines. From Japan's first dramatic film, *Maple Viewing* (*Momijigari*, 1899), a straightforward record of several scenes of a Kabuki play filmed by Shibata Tsunekichi (see DOCUMENTARY), such period dramas dominated domestic production throughout its early decades.

With early Japanese cinema firmly rooted in such indigenous theatrical traditions as Kabuki and Noh, it was not until 1907 that the category of contemporary-set dramas known as *gendai-geki* emerged, originally as filmed versions of *Shinpa* ("New School") stage plays that were produced from around 1907 onward. While **Nikkatsu** almost exclusively specialized in *jidai-geki* during the prewar period, possessing a virtual monopoly over the film market during the 1910s, especially in the field of the action-driven *chanbara* sword-fighting films such as those directed by "the father of Japanese film," **Makino Shôzô**, it was not until the emergence of rival companies such as Taikatsu and **Shochiku** Kinema in 1920 that contemporary subject matter became more commonplace on Japanese screens (see also PURE FILM MOVEMENT; TANIZAKI JUNICHIRO). Still, *jidai-geki* continued to make up a significant proportion of Japanese film production, particularly for the company **Toei**, until the 1960s, by which time it had become a popular staple of television dramas.

Given the volume and diversity of films encapsulated within this term, *jidai-geki* cannot be considered a genre per se. Stories may be set in the Heian period (794–1185); the Sengoku, or Warring States period (ca. 1450–1603); the Edo, or Tokugawa period (1603–1868); or the final years of the Tokugawa shogunate known as the Bakumatsu period (1853–1867). The films differ widely in style, content, and intent. Many works have drawn upon historical

incidents immortalized in stage plays and historical novels, such as the numerous versions of the *Chûshingura* story of *The 47 Loyal Ronin* or the films based on the lives of legendary figures such as the heroic samurai Miyamoto Musashi (whose numerous screen outings with his name as the Japanese title include Inagaki Hiroshi's Academy Award-winning *Samurai* trilogy, released between 1954 and 1956 and starring **Mifune Toshirô**), while filmmakers have shaped the material according to the spirit of the age, both to fit the tastes of the general public or to pass political comment by interrogating official histories.

Beyond historical settings, there is little to link such films as, for example, **Kinugasa Teinosuke**'s sombre *Crossroads* (*Jujirô*, 1928), a doom-laden tale of unrequited love that was heavily influenced by German expressionism; **Yamanaka Sadao**'s *Humanity and Paper Balloons* (*Ninjô kami fûsen*, 1937), which has been described as a *shomin-geki* in period costume, its message at odds with the militaristic ethos of its year of release, with its portrayal of a debilitated samurai forced by poverty into selling his sword and surviving by selling the paper balloons his wife makes; Kumagai Hisatora's *The Abe Clan* (*Abe ichizoku*, 1938), based on Mori Ôgai's 1912 short story set in the 17th century, whose espousal of loyalty and self-sacrifice was more in keeping with wartime ideology; **Mizoguchi Kenji**'s female-centered dramas starring **Tanaka Kinuyo**, such as *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952); **Kurosawa Akira**'s *Throne of Blood* (*Kumonosu-jô*, 1957), based on the William Shakespeare play *Macbeth*; Kudô Eiichi's *The Great Melee* (*Daisatsujin*, 1964), in which the power struggles between a group of samurai plotting to kill their shogun's heir were presented as a direct allegory for the violent student protests of the **Anpo Agreement** era; **Shinoda Masahiro**'s *Double Suicide* (*Shinjû-ten Amijima*, 1969), a formally experimental film that stylistically draws attention to the Bunraku play by Chikamatsu Monzaemon on which it is based; **Zatoichi** (*Zatôichi*, 2003), **Kitano Takeshi**'s revival of the popular 1960s *chanbara* serial starring **Katsu Shintarô**; or Suzuki Masayuki's *Legend of Nin Nin Ninja Hattori* (*Nin nin: Ninja Hattori-kun THE MOVIE*, 2004), a postmodern comedy-action movie that primarily served as a vehicle for its star, Inagaki Gorô, of the "idol" boy band **SMAP**.

JISHU EIGA (JISHU SEISAKU EIGA, 自主制作映画). An abbreviation of *jishu seisaku eiga*, the term *jishu eiga* can be translated as something akin to "self-made," "autonomously produced," or "do-it-yourself" films. These are wholly **independent** works, self-financed and produced outside of the industry and screened predominantly in noncommercial venues. They are made by what might best be described as amateur filmmakers, although a good number of their directors have subsequently achieved some degree of

prominence within the commercial industry, most notably **Ishii Sôgo**, **Kawase Naomi**, **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, and **Tsukamoto Shinya**.

Encompassed within the definition are works made at high-school or university film clubs; film student graduation pieces; home movies; personal video diaries; experimental films (*jikken eiga*); animation; political **documentaries** screened noncommercially at informal gatherings such as Video Act, like Tsuchiya Yutaka's *The New God* (*Atarashii kami-sama*, 1999); and more ambitious feature-length projects. The films have been shot using a variety of media including 8mm, Super-8mm, 16mm, VHS, and digital video.

The decentralized and informal nature of the production and exhibition of this active film subculture has made charting its history a difficult exercise, although it goes back at least as far as to the establishment in 1957 of the experimental Nihon University Film Study Club (*Nihon Daigaku Eiga Kenkyû-kai*, or *Nichidai Eiken*), a collective whose members, including Adachi Masao, Hirano Katsumi, Jônouchi Motoharu, and Okishima Isao, were responsible for a number of films utilizing a mixture of documentary and experimental footage that looked at the failure of the **Anpo Agreement**, including *Rice Bowl* (*Wan*, 1961), *Document 6/15* (1962), and *Sealed Vagina* (*Sain*, 1963), the latter title a metaphor for the failure of the struggles to give birth to a wider movement.

The alternative exhibition environment of *jishu eiga* has allowed its makers to adopt subject matter or approaches that would be impermissible in mainstream filmmaking, for example, as in Obitani Yuri's humorous look at the preoccupation by the Japanese **censors** with the depiction of pubic hair in *The Hair Opera* (*Môhatsu kageki*, 1992), or Matsui Yoshihiko's dramatic films *Rusty Empty Can* (*Sabita kankô*, 1979), *Pig Chicken Suicide* (*Tonkei shinjû*, 1981), and *Noisy Requiem* (*Tsuitô no zawameki*, 1988), which tackle such issues as the emperor's responsibility for the war, homosexuality, and discrimination against Koreans in Japan (see *ZAINICHI*). It was also the environment in which Tsukamoto Shinya made his 8mm fantasy films *Story of a Giant Cockroach* (*Kyodai gokiburi monogatari*, 1975), *The Phantom of Regular Size* (*Futsû saizu no kaijin*, 1986), and *Adventures of Electric Rod Boy* (*Denchû Kozô no bôken*, 1987), which paved the way for his career as a commercial director with a worldwide cult following when his self-financed *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (*Tetsuo*, 1989) won the Best Film Award at the Fantafestival in Rome. In 1978, Sawada Yukihiro remade *Panic in High School* (*Kôkai dai panikku*) for **Nikkatsu**, from a 23-minute 8mm work directed by 20-year-old **Ishii Sôgo** in 1977.

One of the dominant modes of storytelling that has emerged within *jishu eiga* is the first person narrative, in which the director is foregrounded as both the creator and the subject of the work. Representative works include

Kawase Naomi's depiction of her unconventional family history in *Katatsumori* (1994; see WOMEN); the investigation into and the importance of ethnic and cultural roots and what it means to be Japanese in the *zainichi* filmmaker Matsue Tetsuaki's *Annyong Kimchee* (*Annyon kimuchi*, 1999); and Murakami Kenji's more playful look at coming to terms with his new living environment after he gets married and moves to the suburbs in *How I Survive in Kawaguchi City* (*Kawaguchi de ikiru yo!*, 2003).

Though the films are funded and produced outside the commercial industry, a number of organizations exist to support *jishu eiga*, the most vital of which is the **PIA Film Festival** (PFF), established by the prominent Tokyo listings magazine *PIA* in 1977. Others include Image Forum, a Tokyo-based organization established by Tomiyama Katsue and Kawanaka Nobuhirô in 1977 to promote experimental film, which provides training courses, workshops, an exhibition space, and an annual festival; the Cineastes Organization Osaka EX (CO2) and the Cinetribes festivals, both organized by Tomioka Kunihiro in Osaka; the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival (YIDFF); the Yubari Film Festival; and a number of smaller regional film events.

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KADOKAWA HARUKI (角川春樹, 1942–). Kadokawa Haruki is a film producer, a director, a screenwriter, and the former president of Kadokawa Shoten Publishing, founded in 1945 by his father, Kadokawa Genyoshi (1917–1975). Kadokawa entered the family company in 1965, after graduating in literature from Kokugakuin University, and upon his father's death became its president in 1975 and set about reorienting its business toward more populist publications.

In 1976, he entered the world of film production, establishing Kadokawa Haruki Office (*Kadokawa Haruki Jimusho*) as a subsidiary of Kadokawa Shoten with the goal of making films that could compete on the global market, often adaptations of the parent company's publications. Producing almost 60 films up until 1993, his high-concept blockbusters characterized much of Japanese cinema's output during the 1980s, a time when the major studios were reducing production. His first title, **Ichikawa Kon's** mystery thriller *The Inugami Family* (*Inugami-ke no ichizoku*, 1976), was followed by several works that more consciously attempted to break into Western markets. *Proof of the Man* (*Ningen no shōmei*, Satō Junya, 1977), a cross-cultural police investigation movie set between New York and Tokyo, and **Fukasaku Kinji's** disaster movie *Virus* (*Fukkatsu no hi*, 1980), based on a novel by the top Japanese science fiction author Komatsu Sakyō, both featured international casts (the former starring George Kennedy, Broderick Crawford, and Matsuda Yūsaku; the latter with Glenn Ford, Chuck Connors, Chiba Shinichi, and Ogata Ken) and were released in distinct Japanese- and English-language versions. Both failed to make much of an impact on overseas markets, as did *Ruby Cairo* (1993), directed by Graeme Clifford with a \$25 million budget and an entirely non-Japanese cast that included Andie MacDowell and Liam Neeson; despite being, to all intents and purposes, a Hollywood production, it failed to gain theatrical distribution in America, though was later released in a dramatically re-edited version for the home viewing market as *Deception*.

Kadokawa was considerably more successful in the domestic market, with a series of movies featuring the action star Matsuda Yūsaku (1949–1989; best known for his role in Ridley Scott's *Black Rain* [1989] and as the father

of the actor Matsuda Ryûhei), including Murakawa Tôru's *Resurrection of the Golden Wolf* (*Yomigaeru kinrô*, 1979) and *The Beast Must Die* (*Yajû shisubeshi*, 1980) and Negishi Kichitarô's *Detective Story* (*Tantei monogatari*, 1983), the theatrical spin-off of the 1979–1980 NTV series, all of which were distributed by **Toei**.

Other prominent films of the period include Saitô Kôsei's *Time Slip* (*Sen-goku jieitai*, 1979), distributed by **Toho**, and *Black Magic Wars* (*Iga ninpôchô*, 1982); a number of Fukasaku Kinji films, including *Samurai Reincarnation* (*Makai tenshō*, 1981) and *Fall Guy* (*Kamata kôshinkyoku*, 1982); **Masumura Yasuzō**'s final film, *For My Daughter's 7th Birthday* (*Kono ko no nanatsu no oiwai ni*, 1982); Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's *The Girl Who Cut Time* (*Toki o kakeru shôjo*, 1983), from a novel by Tsutsui Yasutaka about a high-school girl with time-traveling abilities; several titles by directors associated with the **Director's Company**, including Sômai Shinji's *Sailor Suit and Machine Gun* (*Sêrâ fuku to kikanjû*, 1981), starring the teen idol Yakushimaru Hiroko, and Izutsu Kazuyuki's *Fine, with Occasional Murders* (*Hare, tokidoki satsujin*, 1984); and *The Woman in the Black Dress* (*Kuroi doresu no onna*, 1987), an early crime thriller by **Sai Yôichi**. Kadokawa also produced **anime** titles, including Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's *Kenya Boy* (*Shônen Kenya*, 1984), based on the manga character created by Yamakawa Sôji (1908–1992); Rintarô's *Armageddon: The Great Battle with Genma* (*Genma taisen*, 1983), *Dagger of Kamui* (*Kamui no ken*, 1985), and *Phoenix: Karma Chapter* (*Hi no tori: hôô-hen*, 1986), the latter adapted from a manga by **Tezuka Osamu**; and the omnibus film *Labyrinth Tales* (*Meikyû monogatari*, 1987; see ÔTOMO KATSUHIRO).

Kadokawa himself directed six films, including his debut, *Dirty Hero* (*Yogoreta eiyû*, 1982); the **jidai-geki** action movie *Heaven and Earth* (*Ten to Chi to*, 1990), at the time the third-highest grossing domestic film ever; and *Rex: A Dinosaur's Story* (*Rex: kyôryû monogatari*, 1993), a family movie about a cute baby dinosaur that capitalized on the success of Steven Spielberg's *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982) and *Jurassic Park* (1993). Throughout his career, he also wrote and published critically regarded *haiku* and *tanka* poetry and courted publicity with his eccentric lifestyle, which included establishing a Shinto shrine in Gunma prefecture in 1974, where he served as a part-time priest officiating over ceremonies for high-profile celebrity associates; funding an expedition that in 1985 discovered the wreck of the battleship *Yamato*, which had sunk in the final months of the war between Nagasaki and Okinawa; and building a replica of Christopher Columbus's *Santa Maria*, which sailed from Barcelona to Japan in 1991.

In 1993, Kadokawa was arrested and charged with smuggling cocaine. He resigned from the family company, to be replaced by his younger brother Kadokawa Tsuguhiko (1943–), their relationship already troubled due to

the failure of his expensive attempt at breaking into Hollywood with *Ruby Cairo. Rex: A Dinosaur's Story*, although one of the highest-grossing films of the year, was withdrawn from release by its distributor, **Shochiku**. After being bailed out in 1994 for 100 million Yen, Kadokawa established his own company in 1995, also called Kadokawa Haruki Office, though officially unrelated to the original organization, through which he acquired the magazine *Popteen* and directed a remake of Ôbayashi's *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time* (*Toki o kakeru shôjo*) in 1997. Due to the scandal of his arrest, the film received a low-profile release; the story had already led to a Fuji television series in 1994, with episodes directed by Ochiai Masayuki, and was remade as an *anime* directed by Hosoda Mamoru at Madhouse animation studio and released by **Kadokawa Pictures** in 2006. From 2000 until 2004, Kadokawa served a prison sentence for his earlier drug conviction. Upon his release, he returned to the film industry, producing Satô Junya's *Yamato* (*Otoko-tachi no Yamato*) to mark the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the battleship whose wreck he had discovered 20 years previously; released by Toei during the Christmas period of 2005, it was one of the top-grossing titles of 2006. Other subsequent productions by Kadokawa Haruki include Morita Yoshimitsu's 2007 remake of **Kurosawa Akira's** *Sanjuro* (*Tsubaki Sanjûrô*, 1962) and **Miike Takashi's** *God's Puzzle* (*Kami-sama no pazuru*, 2008).

Following Kadokawa's departure from the presidency of Kadokawa Shoten, the company retreated from theatrical film production for a brief period, continuing in other media such as **OVA** and video games, usually tied in with their own popular novels or *manga* publications. It partnered with Fuji TV's Motion Picture Division for its return to live-action feature production in 1997 with *Parasite Eve* (*Parasaito ibu*), directed by Ochiai Masayuki from a science fiction/horror novel by Sena Hideaki, published by the company. In 2002, Kadokawa Shoten acquired the rights to the films of **Daiei**, as well as its former studios in Chôfu near Tokyo, to form the subsidiary that is now known as Kadokawa Pictures.

KADOKAWA PICTURES (KADOKAWA EIGA KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 角川映画株式会社). Kadokawa Pictures is a film production and distribution studio that currently functions as a sister company to Kadokawa Shoten Publishing, the Kadokawa Media Management Company, and several other related businesses under the umbrella company Kadokawa Group Holdings. Its chairman and CEO is Kadokawa Tsuguhiko, younger brother of the disgraced producer and former president of Kadokawa Shoten, **Kadokawa Haruki**.

The company was established in 2002 as Kadokawa Daiei Motion Picture Company after Kadokawa Shoten acquired **Daiei's** back catalog and former

production facilities from Tokuma Shoten Publishing (*see also* STUDIO GHIBLI), eliminating references to Daiei after changing to its current name in 2004. Its productions include **Miike Takashi's** *The Great Yokai War* (*Yōkai daisensō*, 2005) and Tezuka Masaaki's *Samurai Commando: Mission 1549* (*Sengoku jieitai 1549*, 2005), a remake of the Kadokawa production *Time Slip* (*Sengoku jieitai*, 1979), directed by Saitō Kōsei and starring Chiba Shinichi as the leader of a military unit that gets sent back in time to the Warring States period and is caught in the midst of battle with an army of samurai.

Kadokawa Pictures is also a shareholder in Asmik Ace Entertainment, a production, planning, distribution, and promotion company involved in the film (domestic and foreign), DVD, and video games industry, originally established in 1998 through a merger between the Kadokawa subsidiary Herald Ace, founded in 1981 and acquired in 1995, and Asmik, a subsidiary of Sumitomo founded in 1985.

KAIJŪ EIGA (怪獣映画). Literally meaning “strange beast film,” *kaijū eiga* refers to the significant genre of *tokusatsu* (“special effects”) monster movies that became hugely popular in Japan with the release of **Honda Ishirō's** *Godzilla* (*Gojira*, 1954). Many of the films have been distributed overseas, often in dubbed, re-edited versions featuring American performers, while Toho also cast American performers in several films during the 1960s to boost international box-office potential. The monsters are traditionally played by actors wearing latex body suits performing against scale models, a technique known as “suitmation” (*sûtsûmêshon*), to differentiate it from the stop-motion animated models pioneered by Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen.

Early antecedents to the genre include the unofficial remakes of Universal Picture's *King Kong* (Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack, 1933), *King Kong, Japanese Style* (*Wasei Kingu Kongu*, Saitō Torajirō, 1933), and the two-part *King Kong Appears in Edo* (*Edo ni arawareta Kingu Kongu*, Kumaga Sōya, 1938), none of which survive today. However, the later success of *Godzilla* led to an explosion in the number of films featuring *daikaijū* (“giant strange beasts”) over the ensuing decades, with **Toho** leading the market. Some of the company's most popular movie monsters, all of whom first appeared in films directed by Honda, produced by Tanaka Tomoyuki and with special effects by Tsuburaya Eiji, include the giant pteranodon Rodan, who starred in the company's first color example of the genre, *Rodan* (*Sora no daikaijū Radon*, 1956). Daiei had released the first ever color example of the genre several months earlier with *Warning from Space* (*Uchūjin Tōkyō ni arawaru*, Shima Kōji); Varan, a gliding reptilian quadruped with flaps of skin between its legs, who appeared in Toho's last monochrome *kaijū eiga*, *Varan the Unbelievable* (*Daikaijū Baran*, 1958); a giant moth that launched a trilogy

of its own beginning with *Mothra* (*Mosura*, 1961); and an aquatic Chinese dragon, Manda, who first appeared in *Atragon* (*Kaitei gunkan*, 1963), a Jules Verne-style adventure based on the novels of Oshikawa Shunrō (1876–1914), in which the crew of the submersible warship that lends its name to the overseas release title defends the earth from attack by the citizens of the lost undersea continent of Mu.

Toho's top movie monsters also were either pitted against each other or teamed up against new foes in films that include *Mothra vs. Godzilla* (*Mosura tai Gojira*, 1964), *Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster* (*San Daikaijū: Chikyū saidai no kessen*, 1964), and *Destroy All Monsters* (*Kaijū sōshingeki*, 1968), all directed by Honda. Honda also introduced several giant creatures inspired by Universal Studio's popular monster movies from the 1930s, with *King Kong vs. Godzilla* (*Kingu Kongu tai Gojira*, 1962) followed by *King Kong Escapes* (*Kingu Kongu no gyakushū*, 1967), and *Frankenstein Conquers the World* (*Furankenshutain tai chitei kaijū Baragon*, 1965) followed by *War of the Gargantuas* (*Furankenshutain no kaijū: Sanda tai Gaira*, 1966).

Following the popularity of Toho's films, Daiei developed its own *kaijū eiga* star in 1965, the flying, fire-breathing turtle *Gamera* (*Daikaijū Gamera*), the last such film in Japan to be filmed in monochrome. The film spawned six sequels at the rate of one a year before Daiei's bankruptcy in 1971, including *Gamera vs. Gyaos* (*Daikaijū kūchūsen: Gamera tai Gyaosu*, 1967) and *Gamera vs. Zigra* (*Gamera tai shinkai kaijū Jigura*, 1971). All were directed by Yuasa Noriaki, with the exception of the second, *Gamera vs. Barugon* (*Daikaijū kettō: Gamera tai Barugon*, 1966), which was directed by Tanaka Shigeo. Beginning with *Daimajin* (Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1966), the company also produced three films set in the Edo period featuring a giant stone statue of a warrior who comes to life to protect local villagers from the tyranny of their evil feudal overlords. **Nikkatsu's** only entry in the genre was *Gappa the Triphibian Monster* (*Daikyojū Gappa*, 1967), directed by Noguchi Haruyasu in 1967 and featuring a monkey-faced bird-lizard creature, while Shochiku created the reptilian space monster Guilala for *The X from Outer Space* (*Uchū daikaijū Girara*), directed by Nihonmatsu Kazui the same year. *Kaijū eiga* also enjoyed a brief run of success on television during this period, with the four-part Fuji Television series *Agon: Atomic Dragon* (*Maboroshi no daikaijū Agon*, 1968), directed by Ōhashi Fuminori.

Though the popularity of *kaijū eiga* waned during the 1970s, the genre enjoyed renaissances during the 1980s and again in the 1990s, with *Gamera* returning in Yuasa Noriaki's *Space Monster Gamera* (*Uchū kaijū Gamera*, 1980) and a new trilogy of films in the 1990s beginning with Kaneko Shūsuke's *Gamera: The Guardian of the Universe* (*Gamera daikaijū kūchū kessen*, 1995), as well as two new series of films featuring *Godzilla*. See also HORROR.

KAJI MEIKO (梶芽衣子, 1947–). Kaji Meiko is an actress and singer best known for her appearances in a number of prominent exploitation films during the 1960s and 1970s, through which she later achieved significant cult status internationally with overseas DVD releases of her films. Quentin Tarantino, in his 2003 film *Kill Bill* (2003), paid homage to her iconic role in Fujita Toshiya's *Lady Snowblood* (*Shurayukihime*, 1973).

Kaji was originally contracted to **Nikkatsu**, making her debut under her birth name of Ôta Masako in Nishikawa Katsumi's *Song of Sadness and Separation* (*Kanoshiki wakare no uta*, 1965). Her first 30 or so roles were supporting ones, playing alongside the company's repertory of stars like **Ishihara Yujirô**, Kobayashi Akira, and Watari Tetsuya in its Nikkatsu Action and youth films. She first appeared under her more familiar stage name in Makino Masahiro's *Tales of Remnants of Japanese Chivalry* (*Nihon zankyôden*, 1969), starring Takahashi Hideki. Not long after, Kaji rose to prominence as the leader of a vicious girl gang in the five-film *Stray Cat Rock* series, which ran between 1970 and 1971, beginning with *Stray Cat Rock: Female Boss* (*Noraneke rokku: Onna banchô*, 1970); the series' individual entries were directed by Hasebe Yasuharu and Fujita Toshiya. These were accompanied by other significant parts, including *Blind Woman's Curse* (*Kaidan nobori-ryû*, 1970), one of Ishii Teruo's few assignments for Nikkatsu, and *Morning Fog* (*Asagiri*, Yoshida Kenji, 1971), her last for the studio before its switch to **Roman Porno** prompted her to leave.

As well as a singing career and several high-profile television roles, Kaji subsequently built upon her tough-girl screen persona as the taciturn prisoner who has been set up by her boyfriend in the four films in the *Female Convict Scorpion* series for **Toei**, based on a *manga* by Shinohara Tôru, beginning with *Female Prisoner #701: Scorpion* (*Joshû 701-gô: Sasori*, Itô Shunya, 1972), and as the avenging heroine in Fujita Toshiya's adaptations of Koike Kazuo and Kamimura Kazuo's Meiji-period *manga*, *Lady Snowblood* (*Shurayukihime*, 1973) and *Lady Snowblood 2: Love Song of Vengeance* (*Shurayukihime: Urami renka*, 1973). Other notable film appearances for Toei include **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Battles Without Honor and Humanity: Fight to the Death in Hiroshima* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Hiroshima shitôhen*, 1973) and *Yakuza Graveyard* (*Yakuza no hakaba: Kuchinashi no hana*, 1976), in which she played the half-Korean wife of a gangster boss; and Nakajima Sadao's *Bonnie and Clyde*-inspired action-road movie *Jeans Blues* (*Jinzu burûsu: Asunaki burai-ha*, Nakajima Sadao, 1974). She also appeared alongside **Katsu Shintarô** and **Takakura Ken** in Saitô Kôichi's *Homeless* (*Yadonashi*, 1974), made for Katsu Pro, and **Masumura Yasuzô's** *Double Suicide of Sonezaki* (*Sonezaki shinjû*, 1978), based on the famous Bunraku doll drama by Chikamatsu Monzaemon.

KAMEI FUMIO (亀井文夫, 1908–1987). Kamei was one of the first great **documentary** filmmakers in Japan. Born in Fukushima prefecture, his family moved to Tokyo in 1918. As a young man, he harbored left-wing convictions, and in 1928 he traveled to Leningrad to study film. After his return, in 1933 he joined the production company P.C.L. (later **Toho**) and, inspired by what he had learned of Soviet montage, made a name for himself through his editing technique with the first feature-length documentary he worked on, *Through the Angry Waves* (*Dotô o kette*, 1937), a noncombat propaganda picture commissioned by the navy (see WAR AND FILM).

Kamei's first major project was *Shanghai* (*Shanghai*, 1938), a portrait of the city newly captured by Japanese troops, which Kamei supervised from Japan, assembling the footage sent back by cameraman Miki Shigeru. The voiceover by *benshi* Matsui Shunsei was suitably patriotic, but the images of bombed buildings and starving children soldiers belied the intended message, as the army, which commissioned the picture, was not slow to notice, even though the film was ranked fourth best of its year by *Kinema Junpô*. *Shanghai* was the first of a trilogy that included *Peking* (*Pekin*) and *Nanking*, all released that same year, although for the last of these Kamei was replaced by Akimoto Ken. Kamei was nevertheless sent to the front with Miki for his next commission, *Fighting Soldiers* (*Tatakau heitai*, 1939), to record the capture of Wuhan. Its images of desolate landscapes buzzing with flies and battle-weary soldiers clashed with the jubilant text of the intertitles and went against the image of war the military was trying to promote; it was never released and was believed lost until its rediscovery in the 1960s.

Kamei was subsequently assigned to the *bunka eiga* genre, a medium in which he proved no less subversive. His script for *The Geology of Mt. Fuji* (*Fuji no chishitsu*, Akimoto Ken, 1940), narrated by the *benshi* Tokugawa Musei, looked at the adverse effects of natural forces eroding the spiritual symbol of Imperial Japan, while *Kobayashi Issa* (*Shinano fudoki yori: Kobayashi Issa*, 1941) juxtaposed its narrative about the famous *haiku* poet with stark images of the rural poverty besetting the denizens of Nagano, where it was filmed. In October 1941, Kamei was arrested and detained for "having violated the maintenance of public order." Released on probation in August 1943, he was blacklisted from the list of directors available for work mandated by the **Film Law** until the end of the war.

Kamei's postwar work varied from PR and education films to work on dramatic fiction such as *War and Peace* (*Sensô to heiwa*, 1947), codirected with **Yamamoto Satsuo**, and *A Woman's Life* (*Onna no isshô*, 1949). His *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeiki*, 1946), a polemic documentary compiled from newsreel footage that looked at the history of Japanese aggression, was banned by the Occupation for implicating Emperor Hirohito and thus appeal-

ing to leftist sentiments (see CENSORSHIP). Kamei also became one of the leaders in the trade union struggles at Toho.

Later notable titles include *Still It's Good to Live* (*Ikite ite yokatta*, 1956), about the survivors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; several anti-**atomic bomb** documentaries, such as *The World Is Terrified: The Reality of the Ash of Death* (*Sekai wa kyofu suru: shi no hai no shotai*, 1957) and *Towards a World Without Arms* (*Gunbi naki sekai ni*, 1961); and *Men Are All Brothers* (*Ningen mina kyôdai*, 1960), about discrimination against Japan's *burakumin* communities. After retiring from filmmaking to run an antiques business, he returned 20 years later with two essayistic documentaries about the environment, *All Must Live: People, Insects and Birds* (*Minna ikinakereba naranai: hito, mushi, tori*, 1984) and *All Living Things Are Friends: Lullabies of Birds, Insects and Fish* (*Seibutsu mina tomodachi: tori mushi sakana no komori uta*, 1986). Kamei died after editing this final film.

KATSU SHINTARÔ (勝新太郎, 1931–1997). Katsu Shintarô was a popular actor, singer, entertainer, and all-round media star prominent in the latter part of the 20th century, as familiar for his portly figure as for his off-screen behavior. He began his career appearing in pulp program pictures at **Daiei** studios, mainly in the *chanbara*, **horror**, and *yakuza* genres, and founded his own production company, Katsu Pro, in 1967. He is most associated with the character of the blind swordsman **Zatoichi**.

Born in Fukugawa, Tokyo, as Okumura Toshio, the son of Kineya Katsumaru, a renowned figure in the traditional form of epic storytelling using song known as *nagauta*, Katsu himself grew up as an accomplished exponent in this field as well as a proficient *shamisen* player. He fell in love with film during a sojourn to America, and upon returning to Japan, at the age of 23, entered Daiei's Kyoto studios. His first role was in *The Great White Tiger Platoon* (*Hana no byakkotai*, 1954), a *jidai-geki* directed by Tasaka Katsuhiko that also marked the screen debut of another Daiei star, Ichikawa Raizô. The two also appeared together in Kinugasa Teinosuke's *A Girl Isn't Allowed to Love* (*Bara ikutabika*, 1955), although at this stage Ichikawa was the more popular performer, and Katsu spent his early years at the studio in lower-billed parts in lesser films. He appeared in three of Daiei's "ghost cat" series, *Ghost Cat of Gojusan-Tsugi* (*Kaibyô Gojûsan-tsugi*, Kato Bin, 1956), *Ghost Cat of Yonaki Swamp* (*Kaibyô Yonaki numa*, Tasaka Katsuhiko, 1957), and *Ghost Cat Wall of Hatred* (*Kaibyô noroi no kabe*, Misumi Kenji, 1958), as well as more prestigious titles including *Sisters of the Gion* (*Gion no shimai*, Hiromasa Nomura, 1956), a remake of the 1936 **Mizoguchi Kenji** film of the same name; *An Osaka Story* (*Ôsaka monogatari*, Yoshimura Kozaburô, 1957), from an original story by Mizoguchi; Watanabe Kunio's *Vendetta of*

the *Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1958); and Kinugasa Teinosuke's late-career literary adaptations *The Affair* (Jôen, 1959) and *Disheveled Hair* (*Midaregami*, 1961).

In the early 1960s, Katsu began to gain more attention for his leading roles in Mori Kazuo's *Secrets of a Court Masseur* (*Shiranui kengyô*, 1960), a *chanbara* featuring a blind masseur, which might be seen as a precursor to *Zatoichi*, and the *yakuza* film *Tough Guy* (*Akumyô*, 1961), which launched a series that ran until 1974 and totaled 16 films, most of which were directed by Tanaka Tokuzô, who made the first, or Mori. He married his costar, Nakamura Tamayo (1939–), in 1962. In 1961 he also appeared as Devadatta in Japan's first 70mm feature, *Buddha* (*Shaka*, 1961), about the life of Buddha. The film's director, Misumi Kenji, also directed *The Tale of Zatoichi* (*Zatôichi monogatari*, 1962), the first in the long-running series that would make Katsu a household name. The *Zatoichi* series, starring Katsu as the itinerant blind swordsman who masquerades as a masseur, comprised 26 films, with the last, *Zatoichi: Darkness Is His Ally* (*Zatôichi*, Katsu Shintarô), directed by the star himself and released in 1989, and four television series, in 1974, 1976, 1978, and 1979.

As well as the *Tough Guy* and *Zatoichi* films, Katsu appeared in numerous other titles for Daiei throughout the decade, including Ichikawa Kon's *An Actor's Revenge* (*Yukinojo henge*, 1963), a vehicle for the great Hasegawa Kazuo that also featured Ichikawa Raizô and Wakao Ayako; Misumi Kenji's *The Life of Matsu the Untamed* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*), a new 1965 version of Inagaki Hiroshi's *Rickshaw Man*; and Masumura Yasuzô's *Hoodlum Soldier* (*Heitai yakuza*, 1965), playing a former *yakuza* member stationed in Manchuria during World War II (see WAR AND FILM). The film spawned seven sequels for Daiei, with a further entry produced by Katsu Pro, *New Hoodlum Soldier: Firing Line* (*Shin heitai yakuza: kazen*, 1972), also directed by Masumura.

With Daiei in decline toward the end of the decade, Katsu followed the lead of actors Ishihara Yujirô and Mifune Toshirô and established his own independent production company in 1967. His first release was the sixteenth *Zatoichi* film, *Zatoichi the Outlaw* (*Zatôichi rôyaburi*, 1967), directed by Yamamoto Satsuo. Alongside the continuing installments of the *Zatoichi* and *Tough Guy* series, Katsu Pro also produced more ambitious work, including Teshigahara Hiroshi's *The Ruined Map* (*Moetsukita chizu*, 1968) and Gosha Hideo's *Tenchu!* (*Hitokiri*, 1969), a *jidai-geki* in which he starred. Katsu's first directing credit was the cop action movie *The Big Boss* (*Kaoyaku*, 1971).

In 1972, he launched the new *Hanzo the Razor* (*Goyôkiba*) *chanbara* trilogy with *Hanzo the Razor: Sword of Justice* (*Goyôkiba*, 1972), based on an outrageous *gekiga* by Koike Kazuo featuring an Edo-period law enforcer who

interrogates his female victims using his oversized penis. The same year, the film's director, Misumi Kenji, began another *chanbara* series adapted from Koike for Katsu Pro, *Lone Wolf and Cub* (*Kozure ôkami*), intended to launch Katsu's elder brother Wakayama Tomisaburô as a movie star.

With Katsu focusing his attention on the television market throughout the 1970s, and his involvement in a couple of high-profile scandals, including arrests for drug possession in 1978 and 1990, his film appearances became fewer in the latter half of his career. He was replaced by Nakadai Tatsuya for his role in *Kagemusha* (1980) after arguing with director **Kurosawa Akira** on set. His later film roles include Nomura Yoshitarô's *Wanderer's Map* (*Meisô chizu*, 1983) and Jissôji Akio's apocalyptic sci-fi fantasy *Tokyo: The Last Megalopolis* (*Teito monogatari*, 1988), featuring designs from the Swiss artist H. R. Giger, and a comeback attempt, reprising his role in the final *Zatoichi* film, *Zatoichi: Darkness Is His Ally* (*Zatôichi*, 1989).

His final film roles were in the Hong Kong-produced children's fantasy *Saga of the Phoenix* (*A Xiu-lo*, dir. Ngai Kai Lam/Sze Yu Lau, 1990) and Kuroki Kazuo's *Ronin'ai* (*Rôningai*, 1990), set at the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate, but he continued to act on the stage. He died of throat cancer on 21 June 1997.

KAWABATA YASUNARI (川端康成, 1899–1972). Kawabata Yasunari was an award-winning author who, in 1968, became the first Japanese recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. As a member of the *Shinkankaku-ha* (New Sensationalist School) of modernist writers in the 1920s, he wrote the script for **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*, 1926).

Many of Kawabata's morbidly sexual tales of unrequited or impossible love have been adapted for film, both during his lifetime and following his death in 1972 from inhaling gas, which many believe to have been suicide. In 1930, Takami Sadae directed *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (*Asakusa kurenaidan*), based on Kawabata's serialized story set in the demimonde of Tokyo's famous entertainment district. Gosho Heinosuke (1902–1981) directed *The Izu Dancer* (*Izu no odoriko*) for **Shochiku** in 1933 from Kawabata's short story about a young student from Tokyo who falls in love with an itinerant performer while vacationing in a coastal resort town. This story was subsequently adapted again by Shochiku on several occasions, by Nomura Yoshitarô in 1954 and Kawazu Yoshirô in 1960. Other versions include Nishikawa Katsumi's for **Nikkatsu** in 1963, Onchi Hideo's for **Toho** in 1967, and a second version by Nishikawa in 1974, this time for Toho, and the first starring vehicle for the phenomenally popular singer and actress **Yamaguchi Momoe**.

Kawabata's *chef-d'oeuvre* is considered to be his first full-length novel, *Snow Country* (*Yukiguni*), published in 1937 after being expanded from a short

story published in 1935. The story of a Tokyo dilettante who becomes besotted with a lowly bathhouse geisha during a sojourn in a hot springs resort in Niigata prefecture was first adapted by Toyoda Shirô for **Toho** in 1957 and later by Ôba Hideo for Shochiku in 1965. Other notable works include *A Thousand Cranes* (*Senbazuru*), published in 1952 and adapted by Yoshimura Kôzaburô in 1953 and **Masumura Yasuzô** in 1969, both for Daiei; *The Sound of the Mountain* (*Yama no oto*), adapted by **Naruse Mikio** for Toho in 1954 to coincide with its publication; *The House of the Sleeping Beauties* (*Nemureru bijo*, 1961), adapted by Yoshimura Kôzaburô for Shochiku in 1968, as an **independent** film by Yokoyama Hiroto and distributed by Eurospace in 1995, and with a German version, *Das Haus der schlafenden Schönen*, directed by Vadim Glowna in 2006; *The Old Capital* (*Koto*, 1962), adapted by Nakamura Noboru in 1963 and in a version starring **Yamaguchi Momoe** and Miura Tomokazu, directed by **Ichikawa Kon**, in 1980; and *Beauty and Sadness* (*Utsukushisa to kanashimi to*, 1964), adapted by **Shinoda Masahiro** for Shochiku in 1965.

KAWAKITA NAGAMASA (川喜多長政, 1903–1981). Kawakita Nagamasa was a film producer and importer and, along with his wife Kashiko (born Takeuchi Kashiko, 1908–1993) and daughter Kazuko (1940–1993), an instrumental figure in promoting Japanese cinema overseas and fostering international relationships by way of film through organizations such as the Towa Trading Partnership company and the organization that bears his family name, the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute.

Kawakita's father Daijirô (1876–1908) was an officer in the Russo–Japanese War who disappeared under mysterious circumstances while Nagamasa was still a child, suspected of revealing Japanese military secrets to the Chinese while teaching at a military academy in Beijing. Though Kawakita Nagamasa was born and raised in Japan, following his graduation he left Tokyo in 1922 to study overseas in Beijing, then Germany. He returned to his home country as the representative for the German film company Universum Film AG (UFA), founding the Towa Trading Partnership in October 1928. The company's name, made up of the characters “tô” (West) and “wa” (both “Japan” and “harmony”), symbolized its ambitions to promote goodwill and understanding between Japan and the West through film. He met Kawakita Kashiko (born Takeuchi Kashiko) when she came to work for the company as a secretary and married her the following year. The couple made the first of their many acquisitions trips to Europe together while on their honeymoon in 1932 and were responsible for bringing Leontine Sagan's *Mädchen in Uniform* (1931) and works of other European directors such as René Clair, Julien Duvivier, G. W. Pabst, and Fritz Lang to Japan, as well as introducing Japanese films to European film festivals such as Venice in the latter part of

the decade. The foreign films imported by the Towa Trading Partnership were released by Toho. Through his European connections, he played an integral role in the German–Japanese coproduction of *Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937).

Kawakita also retained his connections with China, producing Japan's first coproduction with that country, *The Road to Peace in the Orient* (*Tôyô heiwa no michi*) in 1938 through the Towa Trading Partnership. Directed by Suzuki Shigeyoshi, this propagandistic work, in which a Chinese peasant couple discover the kindness of the Japanese Imperial soldiers who have invaded their country, was a commercial failure in Japan, attributable to the lack of a major Japanese star and the linguistic barriers for audiences brought about by the casting of amateur Chinese actors, whose dialogue was subtitled (see WAR AND FILM). Because of his proficiency in the Chinese language, in 1939 Kawakita founded the Shanghai-based China Film Company (*Chunghwa Dyan-ying*) at the Japanese government's request, to produce films with local casts and crews aimed at Chinese audiences, while attempting to forestall Japanese over-intervention in Chinese film production.

After the war, Kawakita returned to Japan, where he was charged as a Class B war criminal and recommended for temporary suspension from the industry. He resumed as president of the Towa Trading Partnership in 1950, with his wife Kashiko as vice president. The Towa Trading Partnership was renamed the Toho-Towa Company in 1951 and continues to this day as a subsidiary of **Toho**, importing and releasing major foreign titles into the Japanese market. The couple continued in their efforts to market Japanese films overseas, playing an important role in introducing films like **Kurosawa Akira's** *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950) to festivals such as Venice. Kawakita Nagamasa acted as production supervisor on Japan's first postwar international collaboration and the final film of Josef von Sternberg, *The Saga of Anatahan* (*Anatahan*, 1953), about a group of shipwrecked sailors on a remote island during the Pacific War in thrall to the one woman (Negishi Akemi) in their midst.

During the 1950s, Kawakita's wife Kashiko consolidated her position as the Japanese film industry's chief overseas ambassador, moving to London for two years in 1955, while her daughter Kazuko studied there. She curated programs of Japanese films for the Cinémathèque Française in Paris and the British Film Institute in London and sat on the juries of a number of major festivals; she was affectionately referred to as Madame Kawakita. In 1960, the Kawakitas established the Japan Film Library Council, which over the following few decades organized a number of thematic programs of classic Japanese films across the world while making film materials available to foreign researchers. They were also integral to the formation of the **Art Theatre Guild**, whose goal was to introduce international art cinema to Japanese audiences. Kawakita Kazuko

also entered the film industry, serving as an assistant to the director Kurosawa Akira on *The Bad Sleep Well* (*Warui yatsu hodo yoku nemuru*, 1960) and establishing the independent organization the Cinema Club Research Group (*Shine Kurabu Kenkyūkai*) to organize screenings of Japanese directors in universities in Tokyo. The blocking of a retrospective of films by **Suzuki Seijun** following his dismissal from Nikkatsu by company president Hori Kyûsaku led to the mobilization of a number of critics and filmmakers in support of the director when he took his former employers to court. Kazuko was married to the actor-director **Itami Jûzô** between 1960 and 1966.

In 1982, following Kawakita Nagamasa's death on 24 May 1981 at the age of 78, the Japan Film Library Council was restructured as the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute and continued with the aim of promoting film culture both in Japan and abroad. In 1983, the first Kawakita Award for individuals or organizations that have contributed to Japanese film culture was bestowed upon **Donald Richie**. Kawakita Kazuko died of a cerebral hemorrhage on 7 June 1993 at the age of 53, and Kawakita Kashiko died within the next few months, on 27 July, at the age of 85. The Kawakita Memorial Film Institute continues to operate to this day.



Josef von Sternberg's Japanese production of *The Saga of Anatahan* (Anatahan, 1953).

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Kawakita Nagamasa (1903–1981) of the Towa Trading Partnership.



The Road to Peace in the Orient (Tōyō heiwa no michi, 1938), the first Japanese coproduction with China, produced by Kawakita Nagamasa of the Towa Trading Partnership and directed by Suzuki Shigeyoshi.

KAWAMOTO KIHACHIRÔ (川本喜八郎, 1925–2010). Kawamoto Kihachirô is an independent animator (*see ANIME*) specializing in stop-motion puppet animation (*ningyô animêshon*). His work draws heavily upon the aesthetics of traditional theatrical forms such as Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku puppet theater as well as Buddhist philosophy. Born in Tokyo in 1925, Kawamoto developed an interest in puppetry and doll making early in life after his grandmother showed him how to make a doll as a child. After studying architecture at Yokohama National University, he was drafted into the army in 1944, although he was never posted overseas.

Kawamoto began his film career as a set designer at **Toho**, joining the studios in 1946 through a connection with an old schoolfriend, Muraki Yoshirô (1924–2009), who would later become **Kurosawa Akira**'s art designer of choice. Kawamoto, however, lost his job in 1950 during the labor strikes at the studio. During the 1950s, he collaborated with the playwright–journalist Iizawa Tadasu (1909–1994) on a series of books featuring photographs of his puppets in children's stories, such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

In the mid-1950s, Iizawa and Kawamoto were joined by the animator **Mochinaga Tadahito**, a pioneer of stop-frame animation. Kawamoto had no experience with animation at this point and was responsible for making the puppets. Together they worked on two commercials (known in Japan as CM) for Asahi Beer for the new medium of television, although their 12-minute color promotional film *Beer, Those Were the Days . . .* (*Bîru mukashi mukashi*, 1956) was released to cinemas, and thus counts as the first theatrical stop-motion animation produced in Japan. It was ranked as the ninth best short film in the annual **Kinema Junpô** awards. Kawamoto also made puppets for several of Mochinaga's children's animations during the late 1950s.

By the 1960s, Kawamoto was growing dissatisfied with the possibilities provided by the world of advertising and children's television in Japan, and in 1964 he traveled to Jiri Trnka's studios in Prague to study under the famous Czech animator. He returned to Japan and in 1968 completed his first **independent** film, the 14-minute animation *Breaking Branches Is Forbidden* (*Hana-ori*), shot on 16mm. Subsequent stop-motion puppet animation included *The Demon* (*Oni*, 1970), *Dojoji Temple* (*Dôjôji*, 1976), and *House of Flame* (*Kataku*, 1979), although he also experimented with *kiri-gami* (cut-out) techniques in *The Trip* (*Tabi*, 1973) and *A Poet's Life* (*Shijin no shôgai*, 1974), based on a short story by Abe Kôbô (1924–1993; *see also* TESHIGAHARA HIROSHI). This latter work won the **Ôfuji Noburô** Award, established by the newspaper *Mainichi Shinbun* in 1962 to recognize excellence in animation.

In order to screen his independently produced work, Kawamoto joined forces with Okamoto Tadanari (1932–1990), another stop-motion animator

who trained with Mochinaga. The two exhibited their short films outside of the established theatrical network in public halls between 1972 and 1980, and Kawamoto later completed Okamoto's adaptation of the author Miyazawa Kenji's *The Restaurant of Many Orders* (*Chûmon no ôi ryôriten*, 1993) when Okamoto succumbed to cancer partway through the production.

Kawamoto made his first feature-length work, *Rennyo and His Mother* (*Rennyo to sono haha*), in 1981, the story of Rennyo Shonin (1415–1499), who brought about the revival in Shin Buddhism during the 15th century, and from 1982 to 1983 he created the characters for NHK's popular live-puppet animation series *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (*Sangokushi*), based on the Chinese historical epic. International productions include *To Shoot Without Shooting* (*Fusha no sha*, 1988), made at Shanghai Animation Film Studios; *Briar Rose or The Sleeping Beauty* (*Ibarahime mata manemuri-hime*, 1990), a film based on a children's story written by the actress Kishida Kyôko, for which he returned to Trka's studios in Prague; and *Winter Days* (*Fuyu no hi*, 2003), an animation omnibus based on the *renga* chain verse of the celebrated *haiku* poet Bashô Matsuo (1644–1694), in which he oversaw the work of 35 of the world's top animators. In 2005 his feature-length *Book of the Dead* (*Shisha no sho*) was released, telling the story of the arrival of Buddhism in Japan in the seventh century.



Briar Rose or the Sleeping Beauty (*Ibarahime mata manemuri-hime*, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1990).



House of Flame (Katakuri, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1979).

KAWASE NAOMI (河瀬直美, 1969–). Kawase Naomi is the most internationally visible of the new wave of **women** directors currently working in Japan. She won the Camera d'Or at Cannes for her feature debut *Suzaku* (*Moe no suzaku*, 1997) at the age of 27, repeating this early success 10 years later by winning the Grand Prix at the same festival for *The Mourning Forest* (*Mogari no mori*, 2007), and was given the Carrosse d'Or (Golden Coach Award) for lifetime achievement in 2009, when her film *Nanayo*, about a young Japanese woman who embarks on a voyage of self-discovery while a tourist in Thailand, premiered there. Kawase has also been the subject of retrospectives in Italy, Switzerland, and France, and it is worth noting several European coproductions within her oeuvre, such as *Kya ka ra ba a* (2001), funded by the television company Arte.

Emerging from the world of *jishu eiga*, Kawase's early films stand at a juncture between fiction, **documentary**, and experimental film (*jikken eiga*): vividly naturalistic invocations of the everyday as filtered through her subjective experiences, shot with the naïve simplicity of a home movie. She made

her first 8mm short films, including *The Concretization of These Things Flying Around Me* (*Watashi ga iki-iki to kakawatte ikô to suru jibutsu no gutaika*, 1988) and *I Focus on That Which Interests Me* (*Watashi ga tsuyoku kyômi o motta mono o ôkiku FUX de kiritoru*, 1988) while a student at the Osaka School of Photography (then called the School of Visual Arts), from which she graduated in 1989, before gaining attention in Japan with the candidly autobiographical 8mm works *Embracing* (*Ni tsutsumarete*, 1992) and *Katatsumori* (1994). The former was an emotional journey back into the mists of her childhood when she was abandoned by her father; the latter, which won the FIPRESCI prize at the 1995 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, was a touching portrait of the great-aunt who took her in and raised her. Her first fiction film was the 55-minute *White Moon* (*Shiroi tsuki*, 1993).

Kawase's 35mm commercial feature debut *Suzaku*, produced by Sentô Takenori, to whom she was subsequently briefly married, like most of her work, was filmed in Nara prefecture in Western Japan, where the filmmaker is based. It was a sensitive portrayal of the members of an extended family, played mainly by nonprofessionals, who live in a remote village with its economic base in cedar logging in steep decline. The film charts the characters' hopes and fears for their community over two distinct time periods divided by a gap of 15 years, with the region's spectacular mountainous scenery evocatively captured by cinematographer **Tamura Masaki**, who had formerly worked as the cameraman for **Ogawa Shinsuke**'s documentaries. This was followed by *The Weald* (*Somaudo monogatari*, 1998), a documentary filmed using a combination of video, 8mm and 16mm that centered on a small village community, again in Nara prefecture, comprised of six aging families who still make their living as foresters.

As well as capturing the timeless spirit of places through landscape and the communities that live in them, Kawase's fictional work often contains an overtly personal, almost confessional dimension. Her feature film *Hotaru* (2001), depicting an intense affair between an exotic dancer and a traditional potter, bore heavy traces of her own marital difficulties with Sentô. While expecting her first child, she took the lead role in *Shara* (*Shara sôju*, 2003) of the hard-working, pregnant mother of a family suffering from the aftershock of a missing son, with the film marked by Buddhist themes of cycles of regeneration and rebirth.

KIKUCHI RINKO (菊地凛子, 1981–). The actress Kikuchi Rinko shot to international attention for her role as **Yakusho Kôji**'s deaf-mute daughter in the Japanese sections of Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Babel* (2006), which earned her a nomination for Best Supporting Actress at the 2007 Academy Awards and led to further appearances in non-Japanese films, including

Rian Johnson's conman comedy *The Brothers Bloom* (2008). She is only the second actress of East Asian descent to receive such recognition, following Umeki Miyoshi's win in the same category for Joshua Logan's adaptation of James Michener's love story *Sayonara* (1957), starring Marlon Brando and set during the Korean War.

Born in Kanagawa Prefecture, she made her screen debut under her birth name of Kikuchi Yuriko in a small role in **Shindô Kaneto's** portrait of Japan's aging population, *Will to Live* (*Ikитай*, 1999) starring Mikuni Rentarô. As well as being active in television, other notable appearances include Kazuyoshi Kumakiri's *Hole in the Sky* (*Sora no ana*, 2001); Ishii Katsuhito's *A Taste of Tea* (*Cha no aji*, 2004) and *Funky Forest: The First Contact* (*Naisu no mori: The First Contact*, 2005); Lee Sang-Il's *69* (2004); and Miki Satoshi's *The Insects Unlisted in the Encyclopedia* (*Zukan ni nottenai mushi*, 2007). She also contributed her vocal talents to the Oshii Mamoru *anime*, *The Sky Crawlers* (*Sukai kurora*, 2008).

KIMURA TAKEO (木村威夫, 1918–2010). Kimura Takeo is an art director who is commonly associated with the *mukokuseki akushon* ("borderless action") films made at **Nikkatsu** during the 1960s, particularly those of **Suzuki Seijun**, with whom he collaborated as part of the script development team behind the Guryû Hachirô pseudonym. He entered the studios in 1941, and following the wartime government's restructuring of the industry, he was transferred to **Daiei** the following year, where his first major assignment as an art director was on Igayama Masanori's *The Voice of the Sea Calling* (*Umi no yobu koe*, 1945).

Kimura returned to Nikkatsu when the studios recommenced production in 1954 and remained there until it started its **Roman Porno** line in 1971. As well as works by Suzuki, such as *Kanto Wanderer* (*Kantô mushuku*, 1963), *Gate of Flesh* (*Nikutai no mon*, 1964), and *Tokyo Drifter* (*Tôkyô nagaremono*, 1966), Kimura also worked on the films of other contracted directors, including Ushihara Yôichi, on *Crimson Pistol* (*Kurenai no kenjû*, 1961) and *Three Stray Dogs* (*Sanbiki no nora inu*, 1965), and **Toshio Masuda**, on *Velvet Hustler* (*Kurenai no nagareboshi*, 1967) and *Gangster VIP* (*Burai yori: Dai-kanbu*, 1968). The last film he worked on at the studio was *Delinquent Girl: Mako* (*Furyô shôjo: Mako*, 1971), directed by Kurahara Koretsugu (brother of Kurahara Koreyoshi), before going freelance and lending his distinctive vision to works including **Kumai Kei's** *Sandakan No. 8* (*Sandakan hachiban shôkan: Bôkyô*, 1974), Hasegawa Kazuhiko's *Young Murderer* (*Seishun no satsujinsha*, 1976), **Yanagimachi Mitsuo's** *Fire Festival* (*Himatsuri*, 1985), Jissôji Akio's *Tokyo: The Last Megalopolis* (*Teito monogatari*, 1988), and Matsumoto Toshio's *Dogura Magura* (1988).

While he continued his collaborations with Suzuki Seijun on works including *Zigeunerweisen* (*Tsigoineruwaizen*, 1980) and *Pistol Opera* (*Pisutoru opera*, 2001), his work with Hayashi Kaizô during the late 1980s and 1990s in films like *Circus Boys* (*Nijûseiki shônen dokuhon*, 1989), *Zipang* (1990), and *The Most Terrible Time in My Life* (*Waga jinsei saiaku no toki*, 1994) is of particular note. In 2004, he made his directing debut with the experimental video short *Mugen Sasurai*, whose title literally means “fluctuating dreams,” and went on to direct two features, *Yume no mani mani* (2008) and *Ogonka* (*Ôgonka: Hisureba hana, shisureba chô*, 2009)

KINEMA JUNPÔ (キネマ旬報). The longest-running specialist film journal in Japan, if not the world, *Kinema Junpô* was launched in July 1919, ceasing publication from 1940 to 1951 due to the war. It is still considered the most powerful critical voice in Japan, despite moving its focus away from coverage of mainly domestic productions, with the balance now tipped toward star-driven Hollywood films as well as other foreign releases.

The magazine’s Best Ten annual awards, as voted by its critics, began in 1924, and have provided the best indicator of what is popular in Japan at any given time. The award was initially only for foreign releases, with the Japanese category beginning in 1926, when it was won by Abe Yutaka’s *The Woman Who Touched Legs* (*Ashi ni sawatta onna*), marking a new period of confidence in the domestic product. In 1999, to celebrate the magazine’s 80th anniversary, the critics voted for the best Japanese films of all time, with **Kurosawa Akira**’s *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), **Naruse Mikio**’s *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955), and **Ozu Yasujirô**’s *Tokyo Story* (*Tôkyô monogatari*, 1953) voted to the top three positions.

KINOSHITA KEISUKE (木下恵介, 1912–1998). With his life and career running parallel to **Kurosawa Akira**’s, although his name is less well-known internationally, Kinoshita Keisuke created some of the finest and most critically regarded films of the 1950s, the period known as the Second Golden Age of Japanese cinema, in total directing around 50 titles at **Shochiku**’s Ôfuno studios over a period of four decades.

Born in the city of Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, the fourth son of eight children, Kinoshita ran away from home to pursue a career in filmmaking, entering Shochiku’s studios, at the time based in Kamata, in 1933. Like Kurosawa at **Toho**, his apprenticeship took place against the turbulent backdrop of the war, as he worked as an assistant director, initially for directors including Shimazu Yasujirô and Yoshimura Kôzaburô, while developing screenplays that were rejected by either the military censors or the company itself. After a brief period of military service in 1940–1941, he made his debut

with *The Blossoming Port* (*Hanasaku minato*, 1943), which was followed by another militaristically themed work, *Army* (*Rikugun*, 1944).

Much of Kinoshita's subsequent output was in the melodrama vein, with titles like *Morning for the Osone Family* (*Osone-ke no asa*, 1946) and the whimsical *Carmen Comes Home* (*Karumen kyokô ni kaeru*, 1951), about an exotic dancer who returns from Tokyo to her rural hometown with her best friend in tow, causing shock and scandal among the locals. The film, which stars **Takamine Hideko**, bears the distinction of being Japan's first color feature, although its sequel, *Carmen's Pure Love* (*Karumen junjôsu*, 1952), was released in monochrome.

More serious works include *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeiki*, 1953), which portrayed a family debilitated by the war, and *Garden of Women* (*Onna no sono*, 1954), which examined feudal structures in an upper-class girls' boarding school. *Twenty-Four Eyes* (*Nijûshi no hitomi*, 1954) starred Takamine as a young primary schoolmistress posted at a small village school in the Inland Sea and depicted her relationship with her 12 young students between the years 1927 and 1946. It was voted best film of its year by *Kinema Junpô*.

As well as its championing of strong female protagonists, Kinoshita's oeuvre was noted at the time for its stylistic experimentation. The nostalgic love story *She Was Like a Wild Chrysanthemum* (*Nogiku no gotoki kimi nariki*, 1955) framed many of its sequences in old-fashioned style photographic frames, while *The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*, 1958) adopted many of its formal elements from Kabuki theater. Adapted from the 1956 novel by Fukazawa Shichirô (1914–1987), this film recounted the legend of Mount Obasute, in which the central character of an old woman named Orin, played by **Tanaka Kinuyo**, sets about putting her house in order by readying her eldest widowed son for remarriage as she approaches her 70th birthday, when local custom dictates that she must make a one-way pilgrimage to the summit to sacrifice herself in order to save the impoverished rural villagers from starvation. This film was also voted the best of its year by *Kinema Junpô* and was remade in a more naturalistic version by **Imamura Shôhei** in 1983.

Though he continued to direct for Shochiku throughout the 1960s, Kinoshita's output suffered with the crisis in the industry brought about by television that hit so many of his contemporaries. In 1969, he joined **Kurosawa Akira**, **Ichikawa Kon**, and Kobayashi Masaki to form the "Four Knights Group" (*Yonki no kai*), a production company whose only major work was Kurosawa's first color film, *Dodesukaden* (1970). The film's critical and commercial failure effectively put an end to similar projects, although many years later the group's sole surviving member, Ichikawa, directed *Dora Heita* (2000) from a script written by the original team. After a 10-year hiatus, during which he worked prolifically in television, Kinoshita returned to film-

making with *Love and Separation in Sri Lanka* (*Suri Ranka no ai to wakare*, 1977), then made a further five films. His last work, *Father* (*Chichi*), was released in 1988. He died of a stroke on 30 December 1998, aged 86.

KINUGASA TEINOSUKE (衣笠貞之助, 1896–1982). One of the first Japanese directors to make a name for himself overseas, Kinugasa Teinosuke was born to a family of tobacco merchants the very year motion pictures arrived in Japan. After finishing his schooling, he left home to join a traveling *Shinpa* theatrical troupe, where he specialized in playing *oyama* (female impersonator) roles. He made his stage debut in 1914 and within three years had gained sufficient notice to be courted by **Nikkatsu**, making his screen debut in *The Seven-Colored Ring* (*Nana-iro no yubiwa*, dir. unknown, 1917). He played dozens of such *oyama* roles for Nikkatsu over the next few years, making a noteworthy appearance in Tanaka Eizō's *The Living Corpse* (*Ikeru shikabane*, 1918), an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's story in which he played the young Russian love interest. When the company started employing real actresses, following Mizutani Yaeko's starring role alongside Inoue Masao in Hatanaka Ryōha's *Winter Camellia* (*Kantsubaki*, 1921), Kinugasa led the studio's dozen or so contracted *oyama* on strike (see also PURE FILM MOVEMENT; WOMEN).

Kinugasa continued to act until 1923, also in male roles, but anticipating the changing tide, by 1920 he was working behind the camera, scripting and codirecting *The Death of My Sister* (*Imoto no shi*) with Sakata Shigenori, in which he also played the female lead. The film was a typical *Shinpa* tragedy, in which a girl is raped by her brother's best friend, leading to her suicide by leaping beneath a passing train. It was enough of a success to lead to him directing several further titles for the studio, beginning with *Spark* (*Hibana*, 1922). In 1922, he left the company for Makino Education Motion Picture Studios, founded by the ex-Nikkatsu director, **Makino Shōzō**, where he made about a dozen films, beginning with *Two Little Birds* (*Niwa no kotori*, 1922).

In 1926, Kinugasa embarked on his best-known silent film, *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippēji*), an avant-garde work unlike anything else made in Japan up to that point, which he produced himself. The film was critically well regarded, but its experimental approach meant that it could only be screened in a limited number of theaters (see also IWASAKI AKIRA), and following its lackluster financial returns, Kinugasa returned for a while to shooting more commercial *jidai-geki* films at Shochiku's Shimokamo studios in Kyoto, produced **independently** by his own company Kinugasa Film Alliance (*Kinugasa Eiga Renmei*). In 1928, he made another attempt at raising the the status of film as an art form with *Crossroads* (*Jujirō*). Described by the director as “a *jidai-geki* without swordfights,” its style was heavily in-

fluenced by German expressionism. The film was distributed domestically by Shochiku, after which Kinugasa took the print and tried to sell it across Europe that same year. During his trip, he made the acquaintance of the Russian filmmakers Vsevolod Pudovkin and Sergei Eisenstein in Moscow and managed to find a German distributor in Berlin, where it played as *Im Schatten des Yoshiwara* (*The Shadows of Yoshiwara*). The film later screened in Paris, London, and New York, and is recognized as the first Japanese film to be screened widely in the West.

After returning to Japan, Kinugasa kept up a steady output of films for the next four decades, returning to Shochiku's Shimokamo studios to make the first *jidai-geki* talkie, *The Surviving Shinsengumi* (*Ikinokotta shinsengumi*, 1932), and the two-part *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1932), the first sound version of the classic tale. He moved to **Toho** in 1940, where his work includes the period drama *The Battle of Kawanakajima* (*Kawanakajima kas-sen*, 1941); the **war** propaganda film *Forward! Flag of Independence* (*Susumu dokuritsuki*, 1943), about a young Indian prince who aids the Japanese in smashing a British spy ring; and, after the war, the melodrama *Actress* (*Joyû*, 1947).

In 1949, Kinugasa moved to **Daiei** studios, where he realized *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*, 1953), a *jidai-geki* set in the 12th century but based on a 20th-century story by Kikuchi Kan. It was the second color feature made in Japan, following **Kinoshita Keisuke's** musical comedy *Carmen Comes Home* (*Karumen kyokô ni kaeru*, 1951), and won the Palme d'Or at the 1954 Cannes Film Festival and Best Foreign Film award at the following year's Academy Awards, owing much of its success to the beautiful cinematography of Sugiyama Kôhei, a collaborator of Kinugasa's since the 1920s. Kinugasa's subsequent works include a color version of *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari: Ukifune*, 1957), subtitled *The Floating Boat*, and several adaptations of the Meiji-era novelist Izumi Kyôka (1873–1939), including *White Heron* (*Shirasagi*, 1958) and *Disheveled Hair* (*Midaregami*, 1961), with the latter providing an early role for **Katsu Shintarô**. After directing over a hundred films, his last work was the Russian coproduction *The Little Runaway* (*Chii-sai tôbôsha*, 1966), codirected with Eduard Bocharov and released in Japan by Daiei. Kinugasa's international reputation as a pioneering filmmaker was reinforced when the print of *A Page of Madness*, believed lost since its release, resurfaced in the director's own home in 1971, resulting in a number of high-profile screenings outside Japan.

KITANO TAKESHI (北野武; **BEAT TAKESHI, BÎTO TAKESHI**, ビートたけし, 1947–). Kitano Takeshi, or Beat Takeshi, is a comedian, popular television personality, and, since the 1990s, one of the most prominent fig-



Kinugasa Teinosuke's early masterpiece of the avant-garde, A Page of Madness (Kurutta ippêji, 1926).

ures from Japanese cinema to emerge on the world stage, as both director and performer. Born 18 January 1947 in a war-damaged slum in Tokyo's Adachi ward, Kitano dropped out of Meiji University's engineering department and became the compère at a strip club in Asakusa. He first came to public attention during the late 1970s under the name Beat Takeshi, playing alongside Beat Kiyoshi (real name Kaneko Nirô) as part of the "Two Beats" double act that specialized in the then highly popular form of stand-up comedy known as *manzai*.

Continuing his comedy career on radio and television, by the mid-1980s he had left his partner behind him, yet continued to use the name Beat Takeshi to refer to this public persona, even in the deadpan, tough-guy roles he is often associated with. These include playing the brutal camp prison guard Hara in Ôshima Nagisa's *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* (*Senjô no meri kurisumasu*, 1983); the heroin-addicted ex-mobster of Furuhashi Yasuo's *Demon* (*Yasha*, 1985); further gangster parts in Wakamatsu Kôji's *Erotic Liaisons* (*Erotikku na kankei*, 1992), a Paris-set thriller costarring Miyazawa Rie, and Ishii Takashi's stylish heist movie *Gonin* (1995); the real-life historical figure Hijikata Toshizô, deputy leader of the *Shinsengumi*, in Ôshima's *Gohatto* (1999); the sadistic teacher who acts as both coordinator and commentator in

the students' deadly struggle for survival in **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, 2000); and the domineering patriarch of the *zainichi* family depicted in **Sai Yôichi's** *Blood and Bones* (*Chi to hone*, 2004).

Kitano's reputation for playing violent characters was particularly noticeable in the films he directed and acted in during the first decade of his filmmaking career, notably *Violent Cop* (*Sono otoko, kyôbô ni tsuki*, 1989) and *Sonatine* (*Sonachine*, 1993). He has also appeared in cameos in the Hollywood sci-fi thriller *Johnny Mnemonic* (Robert Longo, 1995) and in *Tokyo Eyes* (1998), by the French director Jean-Pierre Limosin. More characteristically comic turns have included **Takita Yôjirô's** *No More Comics* (*Komikku zasshi nanka iranai!*, 1986) and a brief appearance in his own madcap *Getting Any?* (*Minnâ yatteru ka*, 1995), about a man's attempts at getting sex.

In the films he has directed himself, he has credited himself as "Kitano Takeshi" the director and "Beat Takeshi" the actor, drawing attention to his twin roles as creator and performer in self-referential titles such as *Takeshi's* (2005), in which the identities collide, and *Glory to the Filmmaker!* (*Kantoku Banzai!*, 2007), in which a fictional version of Kitano the director struggles to move away from violent *yakuza* films and deliver a commercial hit, leading to a series of vignettes shot in the style of classical family drama, ninja movies, **J-Horror**, and science fiction.

Kitano began his directing career with *Violent Cop* (*Sono otoko, kyôbô ni tsuki*, 1989), in which he played a renegade police detective, after the original director Fukasaku Kinji withdrew from the project due to ill health. Kitano appeared only briefly in *Boiling Point* (*3-4x jûgatsu*, 1990), his second directorial work and the first that he scripted. It depicted two members of an unsuccessful local baseball team who travel to Okinawa to get revenge on a *yakuza* gang who have threatened their coach. He returned to the Okinawan setting with *Sonatine* (*Sonachine*, 1993), in which a group of gangsters, realizing they have been set up by their boss, await death on a sunny beach. The nihilism of Kitano's early cycle of films has been linked to a motorcycle accident he was involved in on 2 August 1994 that left his face paralyzed, which some have speculated was a suicide attempt caused by depression.

The motif of suicide was particularly apparent in *Fireworks* (*Hana-bi*, 1998), in which Kitano played a police officer whose wife is dying of leukemia, who resigns after being involved in a work accident that results in a colleague being confined to a wheelchair. However, it should be noted that Kitano's third film, and the first in which he did not appear, *A Scene at the Sea* (*Ano natsu, ichiban shizuku na umi*, 1991), was a touching and inspirational portrait of a young deaf-mute man struggling to learn to surf. *Kids Return* (*Kizzu ritân*, 1996) also presented a nostalgic coming-of-age story between two friends, based on Kitano's own childhood experiences.

With the Golden Lion award for *Fireworks* at the 1997 Venice Film Festival arguably representing the peak of his critical acclaim overseas, Kitano subsequently aimed at a more commercial audience with films such as *Kikujirô* (*Kikujirô no natsu*, 1999), a sentimental road movie about a surly layabout who accompanies a young boy as he searches for his mother; *Brother* (2000), an unsuccessful attempt at launching himself as an international director, made in collaboration with the British producer Jeremy Thomas (who also produced Ôshima's *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*), in which he plays a *yakuza* gang boss exiled to Los Angeles; and *Dolls* (2002), a three-part omnibus film inspired by the Bunraku plays of Chikamatsu Monzaemon (1653–1725). His reinvention of the blind swordsman character **Zatoichi** in 2003 earned him the Silver Lion award at the Venice Film Festival and resulted in his biggest domestic success, before he embarked on a trilogy of films that attempted to deconstruct his screen persona, *Takeshis'* (2005), *Glory to the Filmmaker!* (2007), and *Achilles and the Tortoise* (*Akiresu to kame*, 2008).

Since *A Scene at the Sea* (1991), Kitano has produced his films through his company, Office Kitano, which also launched the Tokyo Filmex festival in 2000. He has regularly collaborated with the same group of actors, including **Ôsugi Ren**, Terajima Susumu, and Yanagi Yûrei, as well as the producer Mori Masayuki, composer **Hisaishi Jô** (until *Dolls*), and cinematographer Yanagishima Katsumi. As well as maintaining a consistent television profile, he has produced autobiographies and novels and gained some notice for his painting, with his works appearing in several of his films. In 2007, the Venice Film Festival announced a new “Glory to the Filmmaker!” Award for career achievement and innovation, named after Kitano's film of the same name, with Kitano its first recipient; in 2008, the Moscow International Film Festival bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on the director.

KON SATOSHI (今敏, 1963–2010). Kon Satoshi began his career as a *manga* artist, with early work including the print publication of **Ôtomo Katsuhiro**'s live-action feature *World Apartment Horror* (*Wârudo apâtomento horâ*, 1991), before he entered the *anime* industry, scripting the first segment in Ôtomo's omnibus film *Memories* (1995), *Magnetic Rose*, directed by Morimoto Kôji. Kon's directing debut was the violent psychological thriller *Perfect Blue* (1998), in which a young female pop singer is haunted by her stage alter ego while being stalked by an obsessive fan. Like all of his subsequent works, the film was produced at Madhouse studios and used the animated medium inventively and self-reflectively in a complex story that on the surface seemed more ideally suited to live-action cinema, in this case strongly reminiscent of directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and Dario Argento.

Kon's other films are *Millennium Actress* (*Sennen joyû*, 2001), which recounted the reminiscences of a fictional veteran screen icon whose life story and film career bares comparisons with those of **Hara Setsuko** and **Yamaguchi Yoshiko**; *Tokyo Godfathers* (*Tôkyô goddofazâzu*, 2003), in which three homeless people discover an abandoned baby during the Christmas season; and *Paprika* (*Papurika*, 2006), about a machine that allows psychiatrists to record the dreams of their patients, which is stolen for sinister purposes. He also made the TV anime series *Paranoid Agent* (*Môsô dairinin*, 2004) for the satellite broadcasting station WOWOW, whose various episodes revolved around a juvenile delinquent who assaults people with a baseball bat. Kon died of pancreatic cancer on 24 August 2010 at the age of 46, during the production of his fifth feature, *Dreaming Machine* (*Yume Miru Kikai*).

KORE'EDA HIROKAZU (是枝裕和, 1962–). Kore'eda Hirokazu is one of the few Japanese directors who emerged during the 1990s to have made a significant international impact, with his films widely circulated and critically praised overseas. His work, along with that of other filmmakers including **Aoyama Shinji**, **Kawase Naomi**, and Suwa Nobuhiro, epitomized a renaissance in the sort of ambitious, *auteur*-driven art-house cinema that arguably had not been produced in the country since the heyday of the **Art Theater Guild** (ATG), although its concerns were more humanistic, meditative, and self-reflective than political.

Kore'eda's route into filmmaking is emblematic of many directors of his generation, following the collapse in the late 1970s of the trainee system provided by the major studios. Initially harboring ambitions of becoming a novelist (he has novelized a number of his films), after graduating in 1987 with a literature degree from Tokyo's Waseda University, he entered the company TV Man Union, which has produced many of his subsequent feature films. Here he made a number of highly acclaimed television **documentaries**, beginning with *Lessons from a Calf* (*Mô hitotsu no kyôiku: ina shôgakkô haru-gumi no kiroku*, 1991), about a class of elementary school children raising a dairy cow.

Following this apprenticeship in television, he made his cinematic debut with *Maborosi* (*Maboroshi no hikari*, 1995), a haunting tale shot entirely using natural light, about a woman forced to make a new life for herself and her young daughter after her husband, played by **Asano Tadanobu**, mysteriously vanishes without trace. His next film was *After Life* (*Wandâfuru raifu*, 1999), in which a group of newly deceased people are entrusted to choose their personal ideas of Nirvana after arriving in a purgatorial halfway house, while the workers in this limbo attempt to reconstruct their favorite memories before their souls can be fully laid to rest. The film explored the key themes

within Kore'eda's oeuvre, of the connections between memory and personal identity and fiction and reality, in an innovative manner, drawing upon ideas found in his earlier TV documentaries *August Without Him* (*Kare no inai hachigatsu ga*, 1994), in which a dying AIDS patient assembles his most important moments from the last 18 months of his life on video, and *Without Memory* (*Kioku no ushinawareta toki*, 1997), a portrait of a man unable to form new memories.

This documentary background also informs *Distance* (*Disutansu*, 2001), which played in competition at Cannes in 2001. The film follows the relatives of members of a murderous cult named the Ark of Truth, clearly modeled on the **Aum Shinrikyô**, on the anniversary of their collective suicide. For the film the cast improvised without the director telling them how the story or their characters were going to develop. For *Nobody Knows* (*Dare mo shiranai*, 2004), Kore'eda adopted a child's-eye perspective of the world as seen by five young siblings left to fend for themselves after being abandoned by their mother. The film also played in competition at Cannes, with its 14-year-old lead, Yagira Yûya, winning the award for Best Actor.

Kore'eda's subsequent work has similarly explored new thematic and stylistic ground. *Hana* (*Hana yori mo naho*, 2005) is a light-hearted reworking of the *jidai-geki* genre, set largely in the tenement slums of Edo at the turn of the 18th century and depicting a samurai grudgingly pursuing revenge against the killer of his father; *Still Walking* (*Arutemo arutemo*, 2008) recalls the home dramas of **Ozu Yasujirô** in its almost real-time depiction of a family reunion on the anniversary of the death of its eldest son; and *Air Doll* (*Kûki ningyô*, 2009) is a Pinocchio-like adult fairytale based loosely on Goda Yoshiie's *manga* about a sex doll who inexplicably comes to life and her quest to find out what it means to be human.

KUMAI KEI (熊井啓, 1930–2007). Kumai Kei is a fiction director whose works are known for their incisive, almost journalistic treatment of Japanese history, broaching topics including social injustice, corporate and political corruption, and taboos such as those surrounding the country's militaristic past.

After entering **Nikkatsu** in 1954, Kumai initially worked as a screenwriter before making his directing debut in 1964 with *The Long Death* (*Teigin jiken: Shikeishû*), based on the Imperial Bank Incident (*Teigin jiken*) of 1948, in which 12 people were fatally poisoned during the robbery of a bank in Tokyo, with some alleging the poison to have been developed by a secret military unit within the Imperial Army during the war. *A Chain of Islands* (*Nihon rettô*, 1965) took as its starting point the mysterious death in 1959 of an American serviceman stationed in Japan to look at the relationship between the two countries in the run-up to the renewal of the **Anpo Agree-**



Kore'eda Hirokazu's After Life (Wandâfuru raifu, 1999). © TV Man Union.

ment, hinting at a government cover-up surrounding a money-laundering, drug-smuggling ring with links across the Asian mainland. *Kurobe Dam* (*Kurobe no taiyô*, 1968) was a more commercial endeavor starring **Mifune Toshirô** and **Ishihara Yujirô** as engineers in an ambitious public construction project. *This Swarming Earth* (*Chi no mure*, 1970), distributed by the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG) following Kumai's departure from Nikkatsu, looked at the prejudices faced by *zainichi* Koreans, *hibakusha* **atomic bomb** victims, and members of Japan's other stigmatized underclass, the *burakumin*, while issues of discrimination were also tackled in *To Love* (*Ai suru*, 1997), about leprosy sufferers. Kumai's penultimate film *Darkness in the Light* (*Nihon no kuroi natsu: Enzai*, 2001) recounted the local police blundering that led to the arrest of an innocent man following a gas poisoning incident in Nagano that was later linked to **Aum Shinrikyô**.

Kumai's most highly regarded work is *Sandakan No. 8* (*Sandakan hachiban shôkan: Bôkyô*, 1974), adapted from Yamazaki Toyoko's nonfiction book of the same name, published in 1972, about a female investigative journalist researching the life of an old woman living in abject poverty who, as a young woman in the 1920s, was sold to a brothel in Borneo as a *karayuki-san*, or overseas prostitute (see IMAMURA SHÔHEI). The film was voted

the best of its year by *Kinema Junpô* magazine, was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 1976 Academy Awards, and earned a Silver Bear for Best Actress at the 1975 Berlin Film Festival for **Tanaka Kinuyo**, in her final role of note.

Other works by Kumai include *An Ocean to Cross* (*Tenpyô no iraka*, 1980), the first Japanese film shot in mainland China; *Love and Faith* (*Ogin-sama*, 1978) and *Death of a Tea Master* (*Sen no Rikyû: Honkakubô ibun*, 1989), two films about the 16th-century tea master Zen no Rikyû, who was also celebrated on film in **Teshigahara Hiroshi's** *Rikyû* (*Rikyû*, 1989); and two adaptations of the renowned novelist Endô Shûsaku (1923–1996), *The Sea and Poison* (*Umi to dokuyaku*, 1986), which looked at medical experimentations on American prisoners of war, and *Deep River* (*Fukai kawa*, 1995), which portrayed the emotional and spiritual journeys of four Japanese tourists during a trip to India. Kumai's final work, *The Sea Is Watching* (*Umi wa mite ita*, 2002), about the denizens of an Edo-period brothel, was atypical in many respects, though it was also one of his most widely circulated overseas, owing to the pedigree of its screenplay, written by **Kurosawa Akira**. See also HARA KAZUO; ISHIHARA YUJIRÔ; KIMURA TAKEO.

KUROSAWA AKIRA (黒澤明, 1910–1998). Kurosawa Akira is arguably the best known of all Japanese film directors in the West and was certainly the most highly regarded internationally in his lifetime. His influence has been cited by a range of filmmakers across the world, and the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival for *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950) in 1951 is seen as marking the beginning of a wide-scale interest in Japanese cinema.

Born on 23 March 1910, Kurosawa joined P.C.L. in 1936, just before it was merged to form the new company **Toho**. As an assistant director he worked under Yamamoto Kajirô, on films including *Horse* (*Uma*, 1942), in which **Takamine Hideko** plays a young girl who raises a horse for the Japanese army, and wrote a number of scripts, which included **Yamamoto Satsuo's** *kokusaku eiga* ("national policy film") *Winged Victory* (*Tsubasa no gaika*, 1942). He made his debut in 1943 with *Sanshiro Sugata* (*Sugata Sanshirô*), the story of a young man's training in the martial art of judo during the Meiji period, which was followed by a sequel, *Sanshiro Sugata Part II* (*Zoku Sugata Sanshirô*) in 1945. His second film, *The Most Beautiful* (*Ichiban utsukushiku*, 1944), was about women working in an optics factory during the war, while *The Men Who Tread on the Tiger's Tail* (*Tora no o o fumu otokotachi*, 1945), his only adaptation of a Kabuki play (*Kanjinchô*), was in production in the month of Japan's defeat. A comic tale starring Enomoto Kenichi (a comedian known popularly as Enoken), as a *jidai-geki* it was banned by the Occupation administration for promoting feudal values, and was only released in Japan in 1952.

His first decade at Toho coincided with Japan's military campaigns across Asia, so much of Kurosawa's early work fell in line with national policy. The director later questioned the individual ideologies of those involved in the war in *No Regrets for Our Youth* (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946), a tale about left-wing resistance to the wartime regime that featured **Hara Setsuko**. Kurosawa's postwar work was generally noted for its humanism, as well as for its dramatic action sequences, lighting, and compositions, which were seen as owing more to foreign filmmaking traditions than indigenous ones; while local critics described **Ozu Yasujiro** as the most quintessentially Japanese of filmmakers, Kurosawa was seen as the country's most Western. Such aspects are manifest in his best-known film, the *jidai-geki* epic **Seven Samurai** (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), which starred his regular collaborator between 1948 and 1965, **Mifune Toshirō**.

A key to the interest Kurosawa's films have invoked in audiences and directors from other countries is that they often drew from non-Japanese sources, especially literary ones. His *jidai-geki* films *Throne of Blood* (*Kumonosu-jō*, 1957) and *Ran* (1985) restaged the dramas of William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* and *King Lear* respectively, in feudal Japan, while *The Bad Sleep Well* (*Warui yatsu hodo yoku nemuru*, 1960), the first of his films to be produced through his own Kurosawa Productions company, incorporated elements of *Hamlet* into its contemporary tale of corporate corruption. *Stray Dog* (*Nora inu*, 1949), a *film noir* about a police officer whose pistol is stolen by a homicidal killer, was inspired by the detective fiction of Belgian writer Georges Simenon. *Yojimbo* (*Yōjinbō*, 1961), a period drama in which Mifune Toshirō plays a *rōnin* who arrives to clean up the corrupt officialdom of a small town, followed the format of Westerns such as George Stevens's 1953 film *Shane* (although its plot was also influenced by Stuart Heisler's 1942 adaptation of Dashiell Hammett's 1931 novel *The Glass Key*), and in turn was unofficially remade by Sergio Leone as the spaghetti Western *A Fistful of Dollars* (*Per un pugno di dollari*) in 1964. Kurosawa was particularly interested in Russian literature, directing Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Idiot* (*Hakuchi*) in 1951 and Maxim Gorky's *The Lower Depths* (*Donzoko*) in 1957.

Other Kurosawa films of the 1950s and 1960s include *Scandal* (*Shūbun*, 1950), in which Mifune becomes involved in a libel case with the tabloid press over an alleged affair with a famous young singer, played by **Yamaguchi Yoshiko**; *Ikiru* (1952), starring Shimura Takashi as a lowly public official who decides to make something meaningful of his life after discovering he has terminal cancer by ensuring the construction of a playground for local children; *I Live in Fear* (*Ikimono no kiroku*, 1955), about a man convinced that a nuclear war is imminent (see ATOMIC BOMB); and *High and Low* (*Tengoku to jigoku*, 1963) based loosely on a novel by Ed McBain, which,

like *The Bad Sleep Well*, took the corporate corruption of the postwar period as its theme.

Despite his elevated international status, as the 1960s progressed, Kurosawa found it increasingly difficult to get his costly productions, typified by lengthy shooting periods and large-scale action scenes shot from multiple camera angles, financed by Toho. *Red Beard (Akahige)* was his last work of the decade and his final collaboration with Mifune, released in 1965. Scheduled to make his Hollywood debut codirecting *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970) with Richard Fleischer, he was replaced by **Masuda Toshio** and **Fukasaku Kinji** following difficulties with the film's producers. His only film with the Four Knights Group (*Yonki no kai*) production company, established with **Ichikawa Kon**, **Kinoshita Keisuke**, and Kobayashi Masaki in 1969, was *Dodesukaden* (1970). Kurosawa's first film in color, it depicted the denizens of a rubbish dump in the immediate postwar period. The film was a commercial failure, leading to a failed suicide attempt by the director.

Kurosawa survived to make *Dersu Uzala (Derusu uzâra)*, 1975), a Soviet-Japanese coproduction set in Siberia and based on the 1923 autobiography of the same name by Russian explorer Vladimir Arsenyev. The film won the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival and the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award, leading to a renewed international interest in the director, with George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola persuading 20th Century Fox to lend financial assistance to Toho for the production of *Kagemusha* (1980), set in the Warring States period and telling the tale of a lowly criminal who impersonates a dying *daimyô*. The film was joint recipient of the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or award, with Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz* (1979).

In 1985, *Ran* became the most expensive film ever produced in Japan and won an Academy Award for Costume Design for Wada Emi (1937–). The film opened the first Tokyo International Film Festival and was Kurosawa's last epic *jidai-geki*. After receiving the Academy Honorary Award for lifetime achievements in film, his final films were *Dreams (Yume)*, 1990), an omnibus of stories based on the director's own dreams, which he had recorded throughout his life; *Rhapsody in August (Hachigatsu no kyôshikyoku)*, 1991), a family drama centered around an old woman whose husband was killed by the A-bombing of Nagasaki, featuring Richard Gere as her half-Japanese nephew; and *Madadayo (Mâdadayo)* 1993), a more low-key drama based on the true-life scholar and writer Uchida Hyakken (1889–1971) and his relationship with his students.

Following his death from a stroke on 6 September at the age of 88, a number of Kurosawa's scripts have been filmed posthumously, including *After the Rain (Ame agaru)*, 1998), by Koizumi Takashi; *Dora Heita* (2000), by

Ichikawa; and *The Sea Is Watching* (*Umi wa mite ita*, 2002), by **Kumai Kei**. In 2008, Toho released *The Last Princess* (*Kakushi toride no san akunin: The Last Princess*), directed by Higuchi Shinji, a remake of Kurosawa's *The Hidden Fortress* (*Kakushi toride no san akunin*, 1958).

KUROSAWA KIYOSHI (黒沢清, 1955–). One of the most respected filmmakers currently working in the Japanese industry, Kurosawa Kiyoshi is a director known primarily for his work in the field of **horror**. Although many of his best-known titles, such as *Cure* (*Kyua*, 1997), *Pulse* (*Kairo*, 2001), and *Retribution* (*Sakebi*, 2006), fall within this category, and he has also worked with other commercial formats such as the **yakuza** film, Kurosawa's highly individual, self-reflexive style pointedly rejects the conventions, tropes, and clichés of genre filmmaking, with key plot points glossed over, narratives unfolding in unpredictable ways, and the camera remaining a distant observer that refuses to intrude upon the emotions or motivations of his characters.

Kurosawa started directing with 8mm **jishu eiga** titles like *Teacher of Violence: Massacre in Broad Daylight* (*Bōryoku kyōshi: Hakuchū daisatsuriku*, 1975) and *Vertigo College* (*Shigarami gakuen*, 1980), the latter part of the official selection for the 4th **PIA Film Festival** in 1981. His first employment in the film industry was as a member of the **Director's Company**, where he worked as an assistant director on Sōmai Shinji's *Sailor Suit and Machine Gun* (*Sērā fuku to kikanjū*, 1981), and he made his directing debut with the eccentric *Kandagawa Wars* (*Kandagawa inran sensō*, 1983), released by the **pink film** distributor Million Film. His second film made for this market was considered to deviate too far from the formula of the theatrical adult movie, and the company refused to distribute it. Kurosawa bought back the shot footage from the distributor, re-edited it, and later released it as *The Excitement of the Do-Re-Mi-Fa Girl* (*Do re mi fa musume no chi wa sawagu*, 1985). Kurosawa's career suffered a further setback following the production of the haunted house movie *Sweet Home* (*Suīto hōmu*, 1989), after he took the film's producer **Itami Jūzō** to court claiming that he had made alterations to his final cut.

During the 1990s, Kurosawa worked extensively in the field of **V-Cinema**, where he continued to experiment with generic material in films like *Yakuza Taxi* (893 [*Yakuza*] *takushī*, 1994) and the six installments of the *Suit Yourself or Shoot Yourself!* (*Katte ni shiyagare!!*, 1995–1996) series of gangster comedies starring Aikawa Shō and Maeda Kōyō. A number of these straight-to-video works, notably *The Revenge* diptych of *A Visit from Fate* and *The Scar That Never Fades* (both 1997), also had limited cinema releases. Kurosawa's breakthrough theatrical feature was *Cure* (*Kyua*, 1997), an austere horror film

starring Kurosawa's lead actor of choice, **Yakusho Kôji**, as a police detective investigating a string of seemingly unconnected murders. This was followed by other entries in the genre, including *Pulse* (*Kairo*, 2001), in which ghostly spirits manifest themselves through the Internet (subjected to a Hollywood remake in 2006 directed by Jim Sonzero), and *Séance* (*Kôrei*, 2001), an adaptation of Mark McShane's novel *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, originally made for television, which also had a theatrical release.

Less easy to categorize, yet retaining Kurosawa's distinctive vision, were *License to Live* (*Ningen gôkaku*, 1999), about a young man who awakes from a coma after 10 years and tries to reconstruct his life; *Barren Illusion* (*Ôinaru genei*, 1999), an experimental, virtually plotless portrait of urban youth, made in conjunction with students from the Film School of Tokyo (*Eiga Bigakkô*); and *Charisma* (*Karisuma*, 2000), a curious environmental allegory revolving around an ancient tree that may or may not be destroying its forest. *Bright Future* (*Akarui mirai*, 2003), which depicted two aimless youths, played by **Asano Tadanobu** and Odagiri Jô, played in competition at the Cannes Film Festival; in 2008, *Tokyo Sonata* (*Tôkyô sonata*, 2008), about a company worker who refuses to admit to his family that he has been made redundant, won the Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section of the same festival. See also HASUMI SHIGEHICO.



Kurosawa Kiyoshi's *Tokyo Sonata* (*Tôkyô sonata*, 2008). © 2008 Fortissimo Films/TOKYO SONATA Film Partners.

KYÔ MACHIKO (京マチ子, 1924–). Kyô Machiko (born in Osaka as Yano Motoko) was one of the most familiar Japanese performers seen by Western cinemagoers during the 1950s, due to her appearances in three of the country's most widely seen titles of the era: as the rape victim at the center of **Kurosawa Akira's** *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950)—as the ghostly enchantress of **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953); and as Lady Kesa, the tragic wife of the character played by **Kazuo Hasegawa** in **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*, 1953)—as well as for her role as the young geisha Lotus Blossom in the American film *The Teahouse of the August Moon* (Daniel Mann, 1956), in which she played opposite Marlon Brando and Glenn Ford.

Although contracted to **Daiei** for most of her screen career, she originally began as a dancer for the Osaka Shochiku Girls Opera (*Osaka Shochiku Kageki-dan*, or OSK), debuting on stage in 1936, and made her first film appearance for the older company in Inoue Kintarô's *Tengu Daoshi* (1944), followed by a more substantial role in Mizoguchi's *Three Generations of Danjuro* (*Danjurô sandai*, 1944), produced by Makino Masahiro and filmed at the Shimokamo studios in Kyoto (see SHOCHIKU).

She went to work for Daiei in 1949 and was actively groomed by producer Nagata Masaichi as one of the first Japanese actresses to be promoted along Hollywood lines, with a focus on her sex appeal as opposed to more traditional values. She made her debut for the studio in Yasuda Kimiyoshi's *The Last Man to Laugh* (*Saigo no warau otoko*), while her physical charms served her well in her next appearances in several titles by Kimura Keigo, including *Hana kurabe tanuki goten*, one of the director's several *tanuki* musicals from the period that later formed the inspiration for **Suzuki Seijun's** *Princess Raccoon* (*Operetta: Tanuki goten*, 2005), and in the **Tanizaki Junichirô** adaptation *A Fool's Love* (*Chijin no ai*, 1949), as the Western-style temptress Naomi. Kyô subsequently starred in several further Tanizaki adaptations, including Shima Kôji's *The Makioka Sisters* (*Sasameyuki*, 1959) and **Ichikawa Kon's** *Odd Obsession* (*Kagi*, 1959).

Other notable films she appeared in include Toyoda Shirô's *A Certain Woman* (*Aru onna*, 1954) and *Sweet Sweat* (*Amai ase*, 1964), for which she won the **Kinema Junpô** Award for Best Actress; Mizoguchi's *Princess Yang Kwei-fei* (*Yôkihi*, 1955) and *Street of Shame* (*Akasen chitai*, 1956); Yoshimura Kozaburô's *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari*, 1951); **Naruse Mikio's** *Older Brother, Younger Sister* (*Ani imôto*, 1954); Watanabe Kunio's 1958 version of the **Chûshingura** legend, released overseas as *Vendetta of the Loyal 47 Ronin*; **Ozu Yasujirô's** *Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa*, 1959); and Inoue Umetsugu's version of **Mishima Yukio's** stage adaptation of the **Edogawa Rampo** story later filmed by **Fukasaku Kinji**, *Black Lizard* (*Kurotokage*,

1962); and she played the wife of the disfigured protagonist of **Teshigahara Hiroshi's** *The Face of Another* (*Tanin no kao*, 1966).

Following the collapse of Daiei in 1971, Kyô moved increasingly into television and stage work, retiring from the big screen after the 18th film in **Yamada Yôji's** popular *It's Tough Being a Man* series for Shochiku, *Tora-san's Pure Love* (*Otoko wa tsurai yo: Torajirô junjôshishû*, 1976), though she returned to the studio for a cameo in Ikehiro Kazuo's *Make Up* (*Keshô*, 1984). She continued to act on stage and television well into her eighties.

L

LONE WOLF AND CUB SERIES (KOZURE ÔKAMI, 子連れ狼). *Lone Wolf and Cub* is one of the best-known *chanbara* serials in the West, primarily due to the release of *Shogun Assassin* in 1980, a composite of the first two entries, edited into one film by Robert Houston for Roger Corman's New World Company, whose exuberant portrayal of violence resulted in it being listed as a "Video Nasty" upon its original British video release. The original series, based on the *gekiga* stories by Koike Kazuo, was produced by **Katsu Shintarô**'s company Katsu Pro as a vehicle for his elder brother, Wakayama Tomisaburô (born Okumura Masaru, 1929–1992), and was released by **Toho**.

At the time Wakayama was a minor star who started his career in 1954 playing supporting roles at **Shinto**ho, then at **Toei**'s Kyoto studios (from 1959), followed by **Daiei** (from 1962, under the name Jô Kensaburô). He had moved back to Toei and was beginning to make a name for himself in program pictures such as the five-film *chanbara* series *Wicked Priest* (*Gokuaku bôzu*, 1968–1971), the first entry of which was directed by Saeki Kiyoshi, and the *yakuza* films *Big Time Gambling Boss* (*Bakuchiuchi: sôchô tobaku*, Yamashita Kôzaku, 1968), one of the several parts he appeared in of the 10-part series starring Tsuruta Kôji (1924–1987), which began with *Gambler* (*Bakuchiuchi*, Ozawa Shigehiro, 1967), and *Gangster* (*Gokudô*, Yamashita Kôzaku, 1968), which itself spawned many sequels.

To this day Wakayama is best remembered for his role as Ogami Ittô in the *Lone Wolf* series, the former executioner for the Shogun who is wrongly accused of treason by the duplicitous Yagyû clan. When his wife is murdered by the clan, he is stripped of his position and forced to live as an outlaw, accompanied by his infant son Daigorô, whom he pushes around in a wooden baby cart equipped with an arsenal of hidden weapons, awaiting the day when he can avenge himself. The first three of the seven films in the series, *Sword of Vengeance* (*Kozure ôkami: Ko o kashi ude kashi tsukatsuru*, 1972), *Baby Cart at the River Styx* (*Kozure ôkami: Sanzu no Kawa no ubagurama*, 1972), and *Baby Cart to Hades* (*Kozure ôkami: Shi ni kaze ni mukau ubagurama*, 1972), were directed by Misumi Kenji, who had followed Katsu from Daiei, with Saitô Buichi directing the fourth, *Baby Cart in Peril* (*Kozure ôkami:*

Oya no kokoro, ko no kokoro, 1972); Misumi returning for the fifth, *Baby Cart in the Land of Demons* (*Kozure ôkami: Meifu madô*, 1973); and the final part, *White Heaven in Hell* (*Kozure ôkami: Jigoku e ikuzo! Daigorô*, 1974), directed by Kuroda Yoshiyuki.

The *manga* was also adapted for television by NHK, airing between 1973 and 1976, almost concurrently with the films, and with Yorozuya Kinnosuke playing Ogami. The wider audiences enjoyed by Yorozuya through television ensured that in Japan he is more associated with the role than Wakayama. The story's original author, Koike, also produced a version, directed by Inoue Akira and distributed by Shochiku in 1993, entitled *Lone Wolf and Cub: Final Conflict* (*Kozure Ôkami: Sono chîsaki te ni*), which condensed all the episodes contained in the original *manga* series into one film.

M

M. PATHÉ COMPANY (M. PATÊ SHÔKAI, M・パテー商会). M. Pathé was the third production company established in Japan, after the **Yoshizawa Company** and the Yokota Company (*see* MAKINO SHÔZÔ). It was founded in 1906 by Umeya Shôkichi after he returned from China, where he had been involved in the still-photography business, as well as dabbling in revolutionary nationalist politics, which had brought him to local police attention (he was a close friend of Chiang Kai-shek, during the period from 1907 when the future Kuomintang leader was studying at the Imperial Japanese Army Academy in Tokyo). Using profits from the exhibition of hand-tinted films acquired from the Pathé Brothers' Singapore office, he set up his own company, capitalizing on the name and reputation of the pioneering French company without their knowledge.

M. Pathé's early films, many of which were directed by Iwafuji Shisetsu, include *jidai-geki* such as *Mito Kômon* (director unknown, 1912) and adaptations of *Shinpa* dramas, with *The New Cuckoo* (*Shin hototogisu*, 1909), one of many versions of the novel *The Cuckoo* (*Hototogisu*) by Tokutomi Roka (1868–1927), reportedly introducing the flashback to Japanese cinema (though with no print in existence, this is impossible to verify). Nakamura Kasen's performances for the company are considered the earliest example of a female acting on the screen, with female impersonators (*oyama*) dominating the acting profession until Japanese cinema began to cultivate its own starlets (*see* KINUGASA TEINOSUKE; PURE FILM MOVEMENT; SHOCHIKU).

In 1909, the company formed the Greater Japan Film Machinery Manufacturing Company (*Dai-Nihon Firumu Kikai Seizô Kaisha*) as a trust with Yoshizawa, Yokota, and Fukuhôdô, and in 1912 the four companies merged to form what would become **Nikkatsu**. Shortly afterward Umeya returned to China, where he became involved in the republican revolution.

MAKINO SHÔZÔ (牧野省三, 1878–1929). Cited as “the father of Japanese film,” Makino Shôzô was born in Kyoto on 22 September 1878, the illegitimate son of a military commander who had been on the losing rebel side in the 1877 Kyushu rebellion. His mother was in the theatrical business and later

procured the small Senbon-za Theater at which Makino helped out as a child and eventually started directing for the stage himself.

In 1908, Makino was approached by Yokota Einosuke (1872–1943), the owner of the country's second motion picture production company. The Yokota Company (*Yokota Shôkai*) had mainly been involved in exhibition and promotion since its establishment in 1903, dispatching teams across the country to show the imported films of the Lumière and Pathé companies, as well as its own productions (mainly news films, especially those depicting the Russo–Japanese War; see DOCUMENTARY; WAR AND FILM), using a Cinématographe machine acquired from the Lumière representative in Japan, Inahata Katsutarô (1862–1949). However, in order to compete with the rival **Yoshizawa Company**, it began more earnestly exploring the potential of fiction films.

Using actors from the Senbon-za Theater, Makino made his first film, *The Battle at Honnoji Temple* (*Honnôji gassen*), in 1908. Interestingly, though Makino is often regarded as Japan's first director, this was certainly not the first dramatic film ever produced in the country, which is considered to be *Armed Robber: Shimizu Sadakichi* (*Pisutoru gôtô Shimizu Sadakichi*), about the real-life criminal Shimizu Sadakichi, filmed by Shibata Tsunekichi from a play by a local *Shinpa* troupe and featuring one of its actors, Yokohama Unpei.

Makino's films faced an incredible surge in popularity after he discovered the actor **Onoe Matsunosuke** working in an itinerant Kabuki troupe and made him a popular stage star at his Kyoto theater. Following their first film collaboration on the historical drama *Goban Tadanobu* in 1909, until 1911, the director–actor partnership made 168 films for the Yokota Company and subsequently became major figures at the newly formed **Nikkatsu**. The films were technically primitive compared with their Western counterparts; action-driven *chanbara* (“sword-fighting”) period pieces based on Kabuki and Noh theater stories, with Onoe often playing ninjas or magicians, shot using natural locations and often adopting cinematic trick techniques. Like the typical Japanese film of the period, their average length grew from one reel at the beginning of the decade to four by the end.

In 1921, Makino ended his partnership with Onoe and left Nikkatsu to form the **independent** company Makino Education Motion Picture Studios (*Makino Kyôiku Eiga Seisaku-jo*), which he renamed Makino Motion Picture Company (*Makino Eiga Seisaku-jo*) in 1922. The studio was absorbed into the larger company Tôa Kinema in 1924, but Makino set up another company, Makino Production (*Makino Purodakushon*), in 1925. Throughout the 1920s, Makino cultivated such popular stars of the day as Arashi Kanjûrô, **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, Kataoka Chiezô, and Hayashi Chôjirô (see HASEGAWA KAZUO), and as a producer he transformed a number of actors such as Inoue Kintarô, **Kinugasa Teinosuke**, **Uchida Tomu**, and his son, Makino Masahiro

(1908–1993), into some of the most important directors of the era, updating the action-driven *chanbara* genre with new, more dynamic cinematic techniques.

In 1928, Makino's home burned down while he was editing his magnum opus, *True Account of the 47 Ronin* (*Chûkon giretsu: Jitsuroku Chûshingura*), a new version of the *Chûshingura* legend that he had filmed on several occasions. He made a further three films, including *Thunder and Lightning* (*Raiden*, 1928), before he died of a heart attack on 25 July 1929, having put his name on over 200 titles. His eldest son, Makino Masahiro, took over Makino Productions until the company's bankruptcy in 1932 and later became one of **Toei's** more notable directors; his second son, Makino Mitsuo (1909–1957), became head of production at the **Manchuria Film Association** from 1938 along with **Nikkatsu's** Negishi Kanichi and, in 1951, took over the same role at the newly established **Toei**. *See also* HORROR.

MANCHURIA FILM ASSOCIATION (MANSHÛ EIGA KYÔKAI, 満州映画協会; MAN'EI, 満映). The Manchuria Film Association (also Manchukuo Film Association), usually referred to in its abbreviated form as Man'ei, was a film production, distribution, and exhibition company that was established in August 1937 and operated until Japan's defeat in August 1945 (*see* WAR AND FILM). Based in the puppet state of Manchukuo (Manshûkoku in Japanese) on the Asian mainland, it was established as a joint enterprise with equal financial support from the Manchukuo government and the South



A scene from True Account of the 47 Ronin (Chûkon giretsu: Jitsuroku Chûshingura), Makino Shôzô's 1928 version of the oft-filmed Chûshingura legend.



Makino Shôzô (first row, second from the left) with cast and crew on the set of True Account of the 47 Ronin (Chûkon giretsu: Jitsuroku Chûshingura).

Manchuria Railway Company (*Minami Manshû Tetsudô Kabushikigaisha*, often abbreviated to *Mantetsu*), founded by the Japanese in 1906. Japan's colonial interest in this vast geographical area in Northeast Asia followed its victories against China (1894–1895) and Russia (1904–1905), but it was the Manchurian Incident (or Mukden Incident) of 18 September 1931 that led to the declaration of Manchukuo on 18 February 1932, operating autonomously from Chinese control and effectively administered as a colony from Japan, with the Emperor Puyi (the last Chinese emperor of the Qing dynasty) officially appointed as its nominal ruler in 1934. The League of Nations' refusal to acknowledge Japan's rights over the region, claiming it belonged to China, led to Japan's withdrawal from the organization. The city of Changchun became the new capital of the region and was renamed Xinjing, or Shinkyô in Japanese ("new capital"). The population of Manchukuo was comprised of a cosmopolitan mix of Han Chinese (the majority), the indigenous Manchus, White Russians, Mongols, Koreans, Jews, and Japanese settlers.

The output of Man'ei was essentially propagandist in nature, aimed at local audiences to reinforce the idea of the State of Manchuria and to counter anti-Japanese sentiments encouraged in Chinese films, and at Japanese audiences to promote the idea of a greater empire across mainland Asia whose subjects were benevolent to Imperial Japan. Initially it did this by way of **documentary** films, newsreels, and educational films, but soon was producing fiction

films using both local casts and actors brought over from Japan, following the arrival from **Nikkatsu** in 1938 of Negishi Kanichi, who became head of production at the studios, and Makino Mitsuo (*see* MAKINO SHÔZÔ; TOEI). The two were responsible for launching the career of **Yamaguchi Yoshiko**, who, playing under the name Li Xianglan (Ri Kôran in Japan), became Man'ei's biggest "homegrown" star, debuting in *Honeymoon Express* (*Mitsugetsu kaisha*; Chinese title: *Mi yue kuai che*, 1938). In November 1939, Amakasu Masahiko (1891–1945), an officer in the Imperial Army with a controversial past, was placed in charge of the operation by Kishi Nobusuke, a Japanese state official who would in 1957 become prime minister of Japan (*see* ANPO AGREEMENT).

Through joint projects with **Toho** and **Shochiku**, Man'ei managed to attract Japanese stars such as **Hasegawa Kazuo** and directors including Watanabe Kunio, Fushimizu Osamu, **Shimizu Hiroshi**, and Shimazu Yasujirô. Notable films to come out of such arrangements, all starring Ri Kôran, are *My Nightingale* (*Watashi no uguisu*, Shimazu Yasujirô, 1938), *Song of the White Orchid* (*Byakuran no uta*, Watanabe Kunio, 1939), *China Nights* (*Shina no yoru*, Fushimizu Osamu, 1940), *Suchow Nights* (*Soshû no yoru*, Nomura Hiromasa, 1941), and *Sayon's Bell* (*Sayon no kane*, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1943). Man'ei also produced a large number of films made by Chinese directors and targeted at local audiences, whom Amakasu described as uncultured masses who needed to be educated.

Toward the end of the war, the studio came to be seen as something of a safe haven for left-leaning directors eager to retreat from the oppressive climate of the Japanese mainland, attracting, among others, **Uchida Tomu** and the *anime* pioneer **Mochinaga Tadahito**, although neither actually made any films while at Man'ei. After Manchukuo fell to Soviet forces in August 1945, Amakasu committed suicide (an event depicted in the Bernardo Bertolucci 1987 film *The Last Emperor*, about the Emperor Puyi, in which the Man'ei president was played by the musician Sakamoto Ryûichi). Man'ei ceased to exist from this point, though some Japanese staff remained, including Uchida and Mochinaga, while many others, including Makino Mitsuo, returned to Japan, where they became key personnel in Tôyoko Eiga, later assimilated into **Toei**.

China plunged into internal chaos after Japan's defeat, and the studios became the object of a struggle between Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang and Mao Tse-Tung's communist forces, with the latter gaining control in April 1946. From 1949, under the control of the Communist Party of China, the studios, later to be renamed the Changchun Film Studio, became an integral part of the state-run filmmaking apparatus of the People's Republic of China. Though Man'ei's major coproductions with the Japanese companies survive,

much of its local output was destroyed during the Soviet invasion, with what remains preserved in China's National Film Archives or at Changchun Film Studio, thereby essentially lost to Japanese researchers.

MASUDA TOSHIO (舛田利雄, 1927–). Though not as well known in the West as contemporaries such as **Suzuki Seijun**, Masuda Toshio was the most consistently profitable of the directors working at **Nikkatsu** during the late 1950s and 1960s, where he made about 50 films. After studying Russian at Osaka University's foreign language department, he worked initially as an assistant director at **Shintoho** before he joined Nikkatsu, where he worked under **Ichikawa Kon** and Inoue Umetsugu. He made his debut in 1958 with *Body and Soul* (*Kokoro to nikutai no tabi*, 1958). His third film, *Rusty Knife* (*Sabita naifu*, 1958), was his first commercial success, initiating a fruitful partnership with the company's most bankable star, **Ishihara Yujirô**.

Masuda's films with Ishihara, often costarring the company's top actress, Asaoka Ruriko, were mainly gangster thrillers made as part of the Nikkatsu Action line, and include *Red Quay* (*Akai hatoba*, 1958), a film about a **yakuza** mobster who flees from Tokyo to Kobe, which borrowed its plot from the French film *Pépé le Moko* (Julien Duvivier, 1936) and was remade by the director as *Velvet Hustler* (*Kurenai no nagareboshi*) in 1967; *Red Handkerchief* (*Akai hankachi*, 1964); and *Stormy Era* (*Shôwa no inochi*, 1968). After Ishihara left Nikkatsu to form his own company, Ishihara Pro, Masuda remained to work with some of the studio's newer faces, including Watari Tetsuya, in the first two entries in the six-part *Burai* series, which began with *Gangster VIP* (*Burai yori: Daikanbu*, 1968), though he also continued to collaborate with Ishihara, whose films Nikkatsu continued to distribute.

Masuda left Nikkatsu to go freelance just before the company switched production to its **Roman Porno** line, with his first major work directing the Japanese sequences of the U.S. coproduced **war** film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (Richard Fleischer, 1970) alongside **Fukasaku Kinji**. Subsequent notable commercial successes released by companies including **Shochiku**, **Toei**, and **Toho** include the apocalyptic *Catastrophe 1999: The Prophecies of Nostradamus* (*Nosutoradamusu no daiyogen*, 1974), starring Tanba Tetsurô; episodes from the TV **anime** series *Space Battleship Yamato* (*Uchû senkan Yamato*, 1974–), with the first theatrical spin-off in 1977 followed by further feature-length cinema releases in 1978, 1980, and 1983; *Tokyo Blackout* (*Shoten shôshitsu*, 1987), a sci-fi disaster movie based on a novel by Komatsu Sakyô, the author of *Japan Sinks* (*Nihon chinbotsu*, 1973); and *Company Funeral* (*Shasô*, 1989), about power games in a large Japanese corporation. His final feature was *Heavenly Sin* (*Tengoku no daizai*, 1992), featuring Omar Sharif.

MASUMURA YASUZÔ (増村保造, 1924–1986). Masumura Yasuzô, along with **Ichikawa Kon** and Kawashima Yûzô (see IMAMURA SHÔHEI), is seen as one of the key figures bridging the gap between the classical Golden Age of the cinema of the 1950s and the more youth-oriented and socially critical modernist period beginning in the 1960s. Noted for his melodramatic approach to storytelling and strong portrayals of **women**, Masumura's early work in particular proved influential with directors associated with the **Japanese New Wave**, although he made the majority of his 58 films at the major studio **Daiei**.

After graduating with a law degree from Tokyo University, Masumura first joined Daiei as an assistant director in 1947 for a period of two years before returning to the university's law department in 1949. In 1950, he was awarded a grant to study cinema at Rome's Centro Sperimentale Cinematografico, during which period he worked on the Italian–Japanese coproduction of *Madame Butterfly* (1954), directed by Carmine Gallone. He returned to Daiei in 1954, where he served as assistant director on **Mizoguchi Kenji's** final three features and on several early titles by Ichikawa Kon, including *Punishment Room* (*Shokei no heya*, 1956). He made his directing debut with *Kisses* (*Kuchizuke*) in 1957.

Often filming from scripts written by Shirasaka Yoshio and **Shindô Kaneto**, Masumura was drawn to depicting the violence, chaos, and absurdity of modern Japanese society and the plight of the marginalized characters existing in it. *Kisses* was a love story between two teenage outsiders who meet while visiting their parents in prison and was praised by **Ôshima Nagisa** for its liberating focus on youth and its dynamic use of camera. *Giants and Toys* (*Kyojin to gangu*, 1958) was a corporate satire about rival confectionary companies engaged in a merciless marketing war, and *A False Student* (*Nise daigakusei*, 1960) centered on an impoverished young man who lies his way into a prestigious university, only to find himself the victim of mob justice when the privileged fellow members of the Maoist student organization he joins begin to suspect he is not one of them (see ANPO AGREEMENT). *Seisaku's Wife* (*Seisaku no tsuma*, 1965) portrayed a young woman from a disreputable background who finds herself ostracized by her village community when she marries a respected soldier and receives a particularly harsh punishment after taking measures to ensure he is not sent to a certain death during the Russo–Japanese War (1904–1905). Like many of his films, it featured a strong central performance from actress Wakao Ayako, who also was in *Red Angel* (*Akai tenshi*, 1966), as a military nurse embroiled in a romantic triangle while posted to the Chinese front line during the **war**.

Masumura was responsible for adapting a number of works by prestigious or popular literary figures, including **Kawabata Yasunari's** *A Thousand*

Cranes (*Senbazuru*, 1969); Ôe Kenzaburô's *A False Student*; **Rampo Edogawa's** *Blind Beast* (*Môjû*, 1969; see HORROR); and in particular **Tanizaki Junichirô's** *Manji* (1964), *Irezumi* (1966), and *A Fool's Love* (*Chijin no ai*, 1967). He also made *Music* (*Ongaku*, 1972) for the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG), adapted from a novel by **Mishima Yukio**, who had played in a top-billed role in Masumura's *yakuza* film *Afraid to Die* (*Karakkaze yarô*, 1960).

Other notable films at Daiei include *Warm Current* (*Danryû*, 1957), a remake of a hospital drama first filmed by Yoshimura Kozaburô in 1939; *The Precipice* (*Hyôheki*, 1958), about the repercussions of a mountaineering accident during an ascent by two friends in love with the same woman; and *Hoodlum Soldier* (*Heitai yakuza*, 1965), a decidedly nonheroic World War II drama starring **Katsu Shintarô**. Following the withdrawal of Daiei from film production in 1971, Masumura directed a sequel, *New Hoodlum Soldier: Firing Line* (*Shin heitai yakuza: kazen*, 1972), for the actor's own production company, Katsu Pro, distributed by **Toho**. Other titles with Katsu include the exploitation film *Hanzo the Razor: The Snare* (*Goyôkiba: Kamisori Hanzô jigoku zeme*, 1973), the second in a three-film series featuring an Edo-period detective who interrogates female suspects with his preternaturally unyielding member (see also MIYAGAWA KAZUO).

Though much of Masumura's subsequent career was spent in television direction, he returned to Rome to make the Italian–Japanese coproduction *The Garden of Eden* (*Eden no sono*, 1976), a tale of sexual awakening utilizing an entirely non-Japanese cast, and made a version of the Chikamatsu Monzaemon play *Double Suicide of Sonezaki* (*Sonezaki shinjû*, 1978) for ATG, starring **Kaji Meiko**. His final feature film was *For My Daughter's 7th Birthday* (*Kono ko no nanatsu no oiwai ni*, 1982), produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**.

MIIKE TAKASHI (三池崇史, 1960–). A prolific practitioner of genre films and a poster boy for the “Asia Extreme” label that emerged in the West in the early years of the new millennium, Miike Takashi is known for his exaggerated *manga*-esque approach to violence and sexuality, rapid cutting, and innovative *mise-en-scène* as much as his extraordinary rate of output. By the time he had achieved his first international success with the **horror** film *Audition* (*Ôdishon*, 2000), an adaptation of a short story by Murakami Ryû about a widowed video producer who stages a mock interview to find a new wife, with disastrous consequences, he had already directed over 30 films.

A graduate of **Imamura Shôhei's** Japan Academy of Moving Images (*Nihon Eiga Gakkô*), Miike began his career working in television, combined with early film work as an assistant on Imamura's *Zegen* (1987) and *Black Rain* (*Kuroi Ame*, 1989), as well as on films by, among others, **Masuda Toshio** and Kuroki Kazuo. He first started directing **V-Cinema** titles,

such as his first release, *Eyecatch Junction* (*Toppû! Minipato-tai: Aikyatchi jankushon*, 1991), an action comedy featuring female police officers that was distributed by Japan Home Video; *Lady Hunter* (*Redi hantâ: Koroshi no pureryûdo*, 1991), another action movie that again featured female protagonists and was actually directed before its predecessor but released two months after; *A Human Murder Weapon* (*Ningen kyôki: Ai to ikari no ringu*, 1993), a martial arts movie set in the world of underground wrestling; and both straight and not-so-straight entries in the *yakuza* genre, such as the three installments of the *Bodyguard Kiba* (*Bodigâdo kiba*, 1993–1995) series and the two-part *Ambition Without Humanity* (*Jingi naki yabô*, 1996–1997). Even after making his theatrical debut with *The Third Gangster* (*Daisan no gokudô*, 1995), another *yakuza* film that was originally intended for the video market, he routinely returned to these V-Cinema and television roots.

Miike's three films in the "Black Society" (*kuroshakai*) trilogy produced by **Daiei**, *Shinjuku Triad Society* (*Shinjuku kuroshakai: Chaina mafia sensô*, 1995), *Rainy Dog* (*Gokudô kuroshakai: Rainy Dog*, 1997), and *Ley Lines* (*Nihon kuroshakai: Ley Lines*, 1999), consolidated his association with the *yakuza* genre, while containing interesting observations about Asian ethnic minorities in Japan. The first film featured a mixed-race police detective pitted against a Taiwanese gangster, and the second centered on the life of a Japanese gangster exiled in Taiwan. Miike pursued his concern with racial and national identity in *City of Lost Souls* (*Hyôryûgai: The Hazard City*, 2000), with the Tokyo underworld portrayed as a cosmopolitan melting pot of Brazilians, Russians, Chinese, and Jamaicans, and the more poetic *Bird People in China* (*Chûgoku no chôjin*, 1998), in which a *yakuza* boss and a company representative on a business trip find themselves off the beaten track in China's Yunnan Province. He also made less easily characterizable works, such as *Andromedia* (*Andromedia*, 1998), a teen movie featuring the J-Pop bands Speed and Da Pump, and *Salaryman Kintaro* (*Sararîman Kintarô*, 1999), an adaptation of a popular *manga* series about a superhero company employee.

Though Miike's 1996 film *Fudoh: The New Generation* (*Gokudô sen-gokushi: Fudô*) was screened at several film festivals and received an American video release, the successful overseas releases of *DOA: Dead or Alive: Hanzaisha* (1999) and *Audition* (*Ôdishon*, 2000) resulted in a large number of Miike's subsequent films being released into Western markets, rapidly earning him a reputation for excess. These include *Visitor Q* (*Bijitâ Q*, 2001), a perverse portrait of a dysfunctional family, shot on digital video; *Ichi the Killer* (*Koroshiya Ichi*, 2001), an exceedingly gruesome adaptation of a *manga* by Yamamoto Hideo, starring **Asano Tadanobu** as a sadomasochistic hitman; *Gozu* (*Gokudô kyôfu daigekijô: Gozu*, 2003), a surreal *yakuza* movie

with Freudian overtones, originally made for the V-Cinema market; and *One Missed Call* (*Chakushin ari*, 2004), a **J-Horror** movie featuring cursed mobile phones that capitalized on the success of the American remake of *The Ring* (Gore Verbinski, 2003). This last signaled a change toward more commercial material, resulting in works such as *Zebraman* (*Zeburâman*, 2004), a comic homage to the *tokusatsu* films of the 1970s, and *The Great Yokai War* (*Yôkai daisensô*, 2005), based on a trilogy of ghost movies aimed at children released by Daiei that began with Yasuda Kimiyoshi's *Yokai Monsters: 100 Monsters* (*Yôkai hyaku monogatari*, 1968). It also saw a reduction in his output, with Miike taking a break from filmmaking in 2006 to direct the stage production of *Demon Pond* (*Yashagaike*).

Miike's international status has led to cameos in the foreign films *Last Life in the Universe* (*Ruang rak noi nid mahasan*, Thailand, Pen-Ek Ratanaruang, 2003) and *Hostel* (U.S., Eli Roth, 2005), while Quentin Tarantino appeared in Miike's *Sukiyaki Western Django* (*Sukiyaki Uesutan Jango*, 2007), which restaged the war between the Heike and Genji clans during the 12th century in the American Wild West. *Imprint* (*Inpurinto: Bokke kyote*, 2006), Miike's entry in the *Masters of Horror* series for the U.S. cable network Showtime which, like *Audition*, was scripted by Imamura's son Tengan Daisuke, gained some notoriety when it was pulled from transmission by the network due to concerns over its content. *Yatterman* (*Yattâman*), a live-action film based on a popular TV *anime* series from the 1970s, was released by Nikkatsu in 2009.

MIFUNE TOSHIRO (三船敏郎, 1920–1997). Mifune Toshirô is an actor who achieved an almost legendary status through his roles in the works of **Kurosawa Akira**, with films including *Stray Dog* (*Nora inu*, 1949), *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950), *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), *Yojimbo* (*Yôjinbô*, 1961), and *Sanjuro* (*Tsubaki Sanjûrô*, 1962). He has appeared in some 140 domestic releases, numerous television serials, and several high-profile international productions and is often described as the Japanese equivalent of John Wayne.

Born in the Chinese city of Qingdao on 1 April 1920, Mifune's father, a Japanese immigrant to China, worked in the photography business. After the family moved to Dalian in the puppet state of Manchukuo (see MANCHURIA FILM ASSOCIATION), Mifune worked in his father's photography studio and was later drafted into the aerial photography unit of the Imperial Air Force. At the end of the war he was repatriated, and in 1946 he entered the photography department of **Toho** studios. After entering the company's "New Faces" competition to find a new star following the mass departure of the studio's top performers to form **Shinto**, Mifune moved to the other side of the camera and made his screen debut in the lead role in *Snow Trail* (*Ginrei*

no hate, 1947), directed by Taniguchi Senkichi from a script by Kurosawa, who by this stage had already made his directing debut with *Sanshiro Sugata* (*Sugata Sanshirô*, 1943).

Mifune's next role was a supporting one, in *New Age of Fools* (*Shin baka jidai*, 1947, two parts), directed by Kurosawa's former mentor (*senpai*), Yamamoto Kajirô. With his next appearance, in Kurosawa's *Drunken Angel* (*Yoidore tenshi*, 1948), in which Mifune played a gangster who is treated for tuberculosis by an alcoholic doctor, (played by Shimura Takashi), the two began a collaboration that would last until 1965. Mifune acted in all but one (*Ikiru*, 1952) of the 17 films Kurosawa made between 1948 and 1965, until the director's last film while under contract at **Toho**, *Red Beard* (*Akahige*, 1965), an Edo-period drama with Mifune playing a doctor whose stern manner masks a genuine compassion for his patients, regardless of their wealth or social standing.

Apart from Kurosawa's work, Mifune also played in a number of films by Inagaki Hiroshi, including *Sword for Hire* (*Sengoku burai*, 1952); the Academy Award-winning *Samurai* trilogy (*Miyamoto Musashi*, 1954–1956), as the legendary swordsman Miyamoto Musashi (1584–1645); as the impoverished *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*, 1958) who looks after **Takamine Hideko** and her young child after her husband's death, in the remake of the same director's 1943 film, scripted by Itami Mansaku; the mythical fantasy *The Three Treasures* (*Nihon tanjô*, 1959); *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, 1962, two parts); and *Samurai Banners* (*Fûrin kazan*, 1969). Appearances in **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952); Chiba Yasuki's comic period road movie *The Happy Pilgrimage* (*Yajikita dôchû sugorôboku*, 1958); as the legendary Edo-period outlaw Kunisada Chûji (1810–1851) in Taniguchi Senkichi's *The Gambling Samurai* (*Kunisada Chûji*, 1960); and in Okamoto Kihachi's films *Samurai* (1965), *Sword of Doom* (*Daibosatsu tôge*, 1966), *Red Lion* (*Akage*, 1969), and *Zatoichi vs. Yojimbo* (*Zatôichi to Yôjinbô*, 1970), many of which received Western releases, cemented Mifune's association with *jidai-geki* roles.

Mifune also appeared in *gendai-geki*, including *Salaryman Chushingura* (*Sarariman Chûshingura*, Sugie Toshio, 1960–1961, two parts) and several contemporary-set films by Kurosawa. He also played in a number of **war** dramas, including **Honda Ishirô's** *Eagle of the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô no washi*, 1953); *Storm Over the Pacific* (*Hawai Middouei daikaikûsen: Taiheiyô no arashi*, Matsubayashi Shûei, 1960); *Miraculous Military Operation in the Pacific Ocean: Kiska* (*Taiheiyô kiseki no sakusen: Kiskaka*, Maruyama Seiji, 1965); *Japan's Longest Day* (*Nihon no ichiban nagai hi*, Okamoto Kihachi, 1967); and **Masuda Toshio's** *Battle Anthem* (*Nihonkai daikaisen: Umi yukaba*, 1983). He played the commander-in-chief of the Imperial Navy,

Yamamoto Isoroku (1884–1943), on several occasions, including *Admiral Yamamoto (Rengo kantai shirei chōkan: Yamamoto Isoroku)*, Maruyama Seiji, 1968), *Turning Point of Showa History: The Militarists (Gekidō no shōwa-shi: Gunbatsu)*, Horikawa Hiromichi, 1970), and the Hollywood film *Midway* (1976), directed by Jack Smight.

In July 1962, Mifune established his own production company, Mifune Pro, directing his first release, *The Legacy of the 500,000 (Gojūmannin no isan)*, 1963), in which he plays a businessman who is kidnapped by *yakuza* while trying to discover the whereabouts of a cache of gold he hid in the Philippines during the war. The film, as with the majority of Mifune Pro's productions, including works by Okamoto Kihachi and Sawashima Tadashi's film about the *Shinsengumi* militia, *Band of Assassins (Shinsengumi)*, 1969), was distributed by Toho, though it was judged a failure and remained his only directing credit. The final Mifune Pro production was *The Miracle of Joe Petrel (Umitsubame Jyō no kiseki)*, Fujita Toshiya, 1984), a gangster drama set in Okinawa and the Philippines, in which Mifune appeared in a small role.

Mifune's international exposure through the works of Kurosawa, as well as other films including, for example, Inagaki Hiroshi's 1956 Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film winner *Samurai I: Musashi Miyamoto (Miyamoto Musashi)*, led to roles in international productions such as the racing drama *Grand Prix* (John Frankenheimer, 1966); *Hell in the Pacific* (John Boorman, 1968), in which he played alongside Lee Marvin as a navy captain stranded on an unpopulated Pacific island with an American pilot during the war; *Red Sun* (Terence Young, 1971), a European-financed Western costarring Charles Bronson and Ursula Andress; Steven Spielberg's war comedy *1941* (1979); and *Shadow of the Wolf* (dir. Jacques Dorfmann and Pierre Magny, 1992), a French Canadian co-production starring Lou Diamond Phillips and set in an Inuit community during the 1930s. He is also well known for his role as Lord Toranaga in the TV miniseries *Shogun* (1980), directed by Jerry London, from James Clavell's novel of the same name.

Other late-career works include Satō Junya's *Proof of the Man (Ningen no shōmei)*, 1977), produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**; **Fukasawa Kinji's** *Shogun's Samurai (Yagyū ichizoku no inbō)*, 1978) and *The Fall of Ako Castle (Akō-jō denzetsu)*, 1978); **Ichikawa Kon's** *Princess from the Moon (Taketori monogatari)*, 1987); **Teshigahara Hiroshi's** *Rikyu (Rikyū)*, 1989); and Kurahara Koreyoshi's *Strawberry Road (Sutoroberi rōdo)*, 1991). His final appearance before his death in 1997 was as a Japanese pilgrim in India, in **Kumai Kei's** *Deep River (Fukai kawa)*, 1995), adapted from an Endō Shūsaku novel. See also ISHIHARA YUJIRŌ; KATSU SHINTARŌ.

MISHIMA YUKIO (三島由紀夫, 1925–1970). Mishima Yukio (born Hiraoka Kimitake) is one of the most renowned Japanese novelists of the 20th century, though he is known as much for the dramatic events of his life as for his fiction, essays, poems, and stage plays. He committed *seppuku* on 25 November 1970 during a failed attempt at a *coup d'état* to restore full power to the emperor, in which he and four members of his private army the Shield Society (*Tate no kai*) stormed the Japan Self Defense Force's Tokyo headquarters and attempted to hold its commandant hostage.

Mishima's literary work is notable for its reverence for Japanese aesthetics and tradition, its refined prose, and its recurrent homoerotic themes. Although he was married and had two children, the author's sexuality has been the subject of continued interest. After the publication of his first novel *Thieves* (*Tōzoku*) in 1948, Mishima leaped to literary prominence that same year, at the age of 23, with his second work, *Confessions of a Mask* (*Kamen no koku-haku*), about a young man forced to hide his dawning homosexual feelings from society. His early celebrity status led to a cameo in the first film adaptation of his work, *The Pure White Night* (*Junpaku no yoru*, 1951), directed by Oba Hideo for **Shochiku**, with two further films based on his stories appearing in 1953: Nakamura Noboru's *Natsuko's Adventure* (*Natsuko no bōken*, 1953) and Shima Kōji's *Made in Japan* (*Nippon-sei*, 1953).

After another special appearance in Nishikawa Katsumi's film of his *An Unethical Lecture on Education* (*Fudōtoku kyōiku kōza*, Nishikawa Katsumi, 1959), attempts were made to launch Mishima as a leading star in his own right in **Masumura Yasuzō's** *Afraid to Die* (*Karakkaze yarō*, 1960), although the film's poor reception curtailed subsequent similar attempts. Mishima did, however, appear as one of the stuffed human trophies in **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Black Lizard* (*Kurotokage*, 1968), the second film adaptation (after Inoue Umetsugu's version starring **Kyō Machiko** in 1962) of his stage version of **Edogawa Rampo's** story about a female criminal mastermind, starring Mishima's reputed lover, the female impersonator Maruyama Akihiro.

In 1966, Mishima wrote, directed, and starred in the 28-minute *Patriotism* (*Yūkoku*, 1966), a highly aestheticized portrayal of the ritual suicide of Lieutenant Takeyama Shinji and his wife following the attempted coup of 26 February 1936, known as the *ni-ni-roku* incident. The film, which premiered at the **Art Theatre Guild's** Shinjuku Bunka theater, has been seen by many to anticipate Mishima's own death and remained out of circulation in Japan until its DVD release in 2006.

Mishima's stories have been adapted on a number of occasions, including versions of the 1954 novel *The Sound of Waves* (*Shiosai*), directed by Taniguchi Senkichi in 1954, Morinaga Kenjirō in 1964, Moritani Shirō in 1971, Nishikawa Katsumi in 1975 (starring **Yamaguchi Momoe**), and Kotani Shū-

sei in 1985 (all except Morinaga's, which was produced by **Nikkatsu**, were made for **Toho**). **Ichikawa Kon's** *Conflagration* (*Enjō*, 1958) is based on *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion* (*Kinkakuji*, first published 1956), a fictionalized account of a real incident in which a young monk set fire to the famous Kyoto temple because he is so in awe of its sublime beauty. A second version of the story was made by Takabayashi Yōichi in 1976, produced by ATG and released under the same title as the book. In 1972, ATG also released Masumura Yasuzō's *Music* (*Ongaku*, 1972), while in 1976, a U.S. production of Mishima's *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace from the Sea* (*Gogo no eikō*, first published 1963), starring Sarah Miles and Kris Kristofferson, was directed by Lewis John Carlino.

In the final years of his life, Mishima's forceful espousal of Japan's *bushidō* ("samurai code") traditions, his outspoken opinions on the relationship between the emperor and the state, and his narcissistic body worship, not to mention the sensational manner of his death, made him a controversial figure, and he is particularly unpopular with those holding strong left-wing beliefs. He was mercilessly caricatured in one of Japan's first-ever gay **pink films**, *Beautiful Mystery* (*Kyokon densetsu: Utsukushiki nazo*, Nakamura Genji, 1983), and at the insistence of his family, the 1985 U.S. biopic *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*, directed by Paul Schrader and starring Ogata Ken, has remained unreleased commercially in Japan. After the mid-1980s, there were no further film adaptations of Mishima's work, until Yukisada Isao directed *Spring Snow* (*Haru no yuki*, 2005) for Toho, based on the first book in his final cycle of works, the *Sea of Fertility* (*Hōjō no umi*, 1964–1970) tetralogy.

MIYAGAWA KAZUO (宮川一夫, 1908–1999). One of the country's most revered cinematographers, Miyagawa Kazuo shot many of the classics of Japanese cinema, including **Kurosawa Akira's** *Rashomon* (*Rashōmon*, 1950), *Yojimbo* (*Yōjinbō*, 1961), and *Kagemusha* (1980); **Ichikawa Kon's** *Conflagration* (*Enjō*, 1958), *Odd Obsession* (*Kagi*, 1959), and *Tokyo Olympiad* (*Tōkyō orinpikku*, 1965); and **Ozu Yasujiro's** *Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa*, 1959). His use of long, fluid camera movements and striking high-contrast monochrome imagery typified the style of **Mizoguchi Kenji's** late career works, *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953), *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayū*, 1954), and *The Crucified Lovers* (*Chikamatsu monogatari*, 1954), although he also shot the director's second color film, *Tales of the Taira Clan* (*Shin heike monogatari*, 1955).

After entering Nikkatsu's studios in his home city of Kyoto in 1926 at the age of 18, Miyagawa shot a total of 134 films, his first assignment as director of photography being on *Ochiyo's Umbrella* (*Ochiyo-gasa*, 1935), directed by Ozaki Jun. Other films include Inagaki Hiroshi's *Ginpei the Untamed*

(*Muhômono Ginpei*, 1938) and *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*, 1943); Yoshimura Kôzaburô's *A Thousand Cranes* (*Senbazuru*, 1953), adapted from the novel by **Kawabata Yasunari**; numerous entries in the 1960s **Zatoichi** series starring **Katsu Shintarô**; **Kinugasa Teinosuke**'s final film, *The Little Runaway* (*Chiisai tôbôsha*, 1966), codirected with Russia's Eduard Bocharov; **Masumura Yasuzô**'s *Irezumi* (1966) and *Hanzo the Razor: The Snare* (*Goyôkiba: Kamisori Hanzô jigoku zeme*, 1973); and the fourth part of the **Lone Wolf and Cub** series, *Baby Cart in Peril* (*Kozure ôkami: Oya no kokoro, ko no kokoro*, 1972), directed by Saitô Buichi. He also worked on a number of works by **Shinoda Masahiro**, including *Silence* (*Chinmoku*, 1971), *MacArthur's Children* (*Setouchi shônen yakyûdan*, 1984), *Gonza the Spearman* (*Chikamatsu Monzaemon: Yari no Gonza*, 1986), and the Japanese–German coproduction *The Dancer* (*Maihime*, 1989), his final credit. For his services to Japanese cinema, he was awarded the 10th Kawakita Prize in 1992 (see KAWAKITA NAGAMASA).

MIYAZAKI HAYAO (宮崎駿, 1941–). Of the two major figures at the animation house **Studio Ghibli**, it is the films of Miyazaki Hayao rather than his colleague **Takahata Isao** that have gained the most attention globally, leading to him being heralded as one of the world's greatest animators. In 2002, his *Spirited Away* (*Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi*) became the first-ever animation produced in any country to win a Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival, and the following year it won the Academy Award for the Best Animated Feature.

Miyazaki's stories are typically fantastical and free-flowing and vividly depict the realms of mystery and imagination lying behind the veneer of the everyday. His key work, *My Neighbor Totoro* (*Tonari no totoro*, 1988), follows the adventures of two sisters after they move to a new home in the country to be closer to their mother, who is convalescing in a hospital with tuberculosis. Here they befriend an ancient troll living deep in the forest, an encounter that changes the way they look at the world forever. In general, Miyazaki's settings and imagery stem from an eclectic mixture of stylistic sources, borrowing from world classics of children's literature and more traditional iconographies, with a particular emphasis on airborne narratives. *Porco Rosso* (*Kurenai no buta*, 1992) tells the story of an Italian former World War I fighter pilot who has been cursed with the head of a pig and now makes a living as a freelance bounty hunter, scouring the skies in search of pirates. *Spirited Away* has been likened to *Alice in Wonderland* in an ancient Japanese setting, in its story of a sulky 10-year-old girl named Chihiro put to work in a traditional bathhouse populated by a multitude of colorfully depicted ancient deities in order to remove a spell from her parents. Like much

of Miyazaki's work, its story originated from the director himself, with only *Kiki's Delivery Service* (*Majo no takkyûbin*, 1989) and *Howl's Moving Castle* (*Hauru no ugoku shiro*, 2004) adapted from other sources, the latter based on a book by British children's writer Diana Wynne Jones.

Though his career in animation began in 1963 when he entered Toei Animation and met Takahata Isao, Miyazaki's early roles were largely confined to character and background design, key animation, and later screenwriting. His first opportunity to direct his own project came with the NHK TV series *Future Boy Conan* (*Mirai shônen Konan*, 1978). He followed this with his theatrical debut *Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro* (*Rupan sansei: Kariosutoro no shiro*, 1979), the second film based on the charming gentleman thief who featured in a popular *manga* series by Katô Kazuhiko (a.k.a. Monkey Punch). The character, whose name is derived from the master criminal Arsène Lupin popularized in the crime novels of French writer Maurice Leblanc (1864–1941), was already well-established through several animated TV series in the early 1970s and a live-action film released by **Toho**, *Lupin III: Strange Psychokinetic Strategy* (*Rupan sansei: Nenrikichan sakusen*, Tsuboshima Takashi, 1974).

Miyazaki's first major critical and commercial success was *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (*Kaze no tani no Naushika*, 1984). Adapted from his own *manga*, this epic adventure follows a young girl as she fights to save her village, situated in a lush green valley, from the environmental degradation that has ravaged the rest of the land. *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*, 1997) later followed a similar ecological story line, though it was set in Japan's medieval past. The success of *Nausicaä* led to the formation of Studio Ghibli for the production of his next work, *Laputa: Castle in the Sky* (*Tankû no shiro Rapyuta*, 1986).

Since *Kiki's Delivery Service*, Miyazaki's films have consistently topped the domestic box-office charts, a trend continued by his most recent work, *Ponyo on a Cliff* (*Gake no ue no Ponyo*, 2008), about a friendship between a five-year-old boy and a goldfish who wants to be a human girl.

MIYAZAWA RIE (宮沢りえ, 1973–). Miyazawa Rie is an actress who began her career as a child star, model, and singer. Born in Tokyo to a Dutch father and a Japanese mother, who raised her after her parents separated, she began her career in television commercials for confectionary at the age of 11 and appeared in the Fuji TV television drama *Oikaketai no!* in 1988. She made her film debut in the children's comedy *Seven Days' War* (*Bokura no nanoka-kan sensô*, 1988), a Kadokawa production (see KADOKAWA HARUKI), directed by Sagawara Hiroshi and distributed by **Toho**, which earned her the Japan Academy Best Newcomer Award. She appeared in a supporting

role the following year in Kaneko Shūsuke's Office Lady romantic drama *Who Do I Choose?* (*Dotchi ni suru no*, 1989), for which she received the Nikkan Sports Film Award (*Nikkan Supōtsu Eiga Taishō*) for Best New Talent. The same year she launched a successful J-Pop career with her first single, "Dream Rush" ("Dorīmu rasshu").

In 1991, after firmly establishing herself as a singer and television actress, Miyazawa scandalized the Japanese media by publishing the nude photograph book *Santa Fe*. She took on more mature roles in **Teshigahara Hiroshi's** period drama *Princess Go* (*Gō-hime*, 1992) and **Wakamatsu Kōji's** thriller *Erotic Liaisons* (*Erotikku na kankei*, 1992), playing opposite Uchida Yūya and Beat Takeshi (see KITANO TAKESHI). Following her highly publicized break-up with Takanohana, the sumo star to whom she was engaged, she retreated from the public eye, suffering from nervous exhaustion and a suspected eating disorder. She appeared in only a few films for the rest of the decade, including **Ichikawa Kon's** version of the *Chūshingura* legend, *47 Ronin* (*Shijūshichinin no shikaku*, 1994), concentrating instead on a television career, with roles including Tripitaka alongside Motoki Masahiro's *Monkey* (*Songoku*) in NTV's television movie *Journey to the West* (*Saiyūki*, 2003), directed by the former **pink film** director Izumi Seiji.

Miyazawa began her film comeback at the turn of the millennium with the Taiwanese comedy *The Cabbie* (*Yun zhuan shou zhi lian*, Chen Yiwen/Zhang Huakun, 2000), the Hong Kong historical drama *Peony Pavilion* (*Youyuan jingmeng*, Fan Yeung, 2001), and *Free and Easy 12: Big Holiday Bonus Project* (*Tsuri baka nissshi 12: Shijōsaidai no yūkyū kyūka*, Motoki Katsuhide, 2001), an installment in **Shochiku's** long-running everyman fishing comedy series. Winning a Japan Academy Best Actress Award for her role in **Yamada Yōji's** *Twilight Samurai* (*Tasogare seibei*, 2002) revived her reputation as an actress, further strengthened by critically regarded performances in Kuroki Kazuo's *The Face of Jizo* (*Chichi to kuraseba*, 2004), a chamber drama also featuring Harada Yoshio and **Tadanobu Asano**, set in the aftermath of the **atomic bombing** of Hiroshima, and as the fashion-obsessed wife of Issei Ogata in Ichikawa Jun's adaptation of Murakami Haruki's short story, *Tony Takitani* (*Tonī Takitani*, 2005).

Other notable film work includes roles in **Takita Yōjirō's** period fantasy *Ashura* (*Ashura-jō no hitomi*, 2005) and as part of the voice cast for **Kawamoto Kihachirō's** stop-motion animation *Book of the Dead* (*Shisha no sho*, 2005), although in the latter part of the decade she focused on stage appearances. On 20 May 2009, she gave birth to a daughter.

MIZOGUCHI KENJI (溝口健二, 1898–1956). One of the three great directors of Japanese cinema's classical period to have received the most

significant attention in the West (*see also* KUROSAWA AKIRA; OZU YASUJIRO), Mizoguchi Kenji is noted for his powerful evocation of atmosphere and location, a fluid camera style consisting predominantly of long, uninterrupted, moving takes, and his progressive depiction of **women** at the mercy of patriarchal forces, both in period and contemporary environments. His choice of female-centered narratives has led to his being described as a *feminisuto* (“feminist”) director, although it should be understood that this loanword has slightly different connotations in Japanese than its more politicized interpretation in the West.

While *Passion of a Woman Teacher* (*Kyôren no onna shishô*, 1926), a version of the supernatural *kaidan* story by **Sanyûtei Enchô**, was screened in Europe upon its original release, and as such was one of the first Japanese films to play in the West (*see also* HORROR), it was not until toward the end of Mizoguchi’s career, following his two consecutive Silver Lion awards at Venice for *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953) and *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayû*, 1954), that his name became more internationally known.

Born in Tokyo, after abandoning his initial plans to become an advertisement designer, in 1920 Mizoguchi joined **Nikkatsu**’s Mukojima studios, which specialized in the production of *gendai-geki* **Shinpa** dramas, with early work as an assistant including Tanaka Eizô’s *The Kyôya Collar Shop* (*Kyôya eriten*, 1922). His directing debut, *The Resurrection of Love* (*Ai ni yomigaeru hi*), was released in 1923, although regrettably, like the vast majority of his output of almost 50 films made during the decade, the film no longer exists. Still, it is apparent that much of his early work was in an experimental vein, often drawing upon Western source material and cinematic styles, in films like *Blood and Spirit* (*Chi to rei*, 1923), from a story by the German author E. T. A. Hoffman; *813: The Adventures of Arsène Lupin* (813, 1923), featuring the master criminal created by the French writer Maurice Leblanc (*see also* MIYAZAKI HAYAO); and *The White Lily Laments* (*Shirayuri wa nageku*, 1925), based on a work by English novelist and playwright John Galsworthy. He was also one of the first directors in Japan to experiment with sound film technology, in the part-talkie *Hometown* (*Fujiwara Yoshie no furusato*, 1930).

The themes with which Mizoguchi is most identified, social injustice and the suffering of women within a specifically Japanese context, are much in evidence in some of his earliest surviving silent work. *Tokyo March* (*Tôkyô kôshinkyoku*, 1929), which exists only in part, is about a man who falls in love with a girl who is forced to become a geisha to support her impoverished family, only to find himself vying for her attentions with his own father. *The Water Magician* (*Taki no shiraito*, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1933), based on a story by the Meiji-period author Izumi Kyôka and produced by Irie Pro, the **independent** production company established by its star, Irie Takako (*see*

WOMEN), featured the actress as a juggling “water magician” performing in a traveling carnival, who selflessly sends money to put the rickshaw driver whom she loves through law school, with tragic consequences for herself. *The Downfall of Osen* (*Orizuru Osen*, 1935), produced by Dai-Ichi Motion Pictures (see DAIEI; NIKKATSU), was another Izumi adaptation, about the servant girl of a corrupt antiques dealer who goes on the run with a fellow employee, Sokichi, after their master is imprisoned for cheating a monastery, then prostitutes herself to put him through medical school.

Mizoguchi left Nikkatsu in 1932, directing three films for Irie Pro, including the company’s first release, the imperialistically themed *The Dawn of Manchuria and Mongolia* (*Manmô kenkoku no reimei*, 1932). He moved to Dai-Ichi in 1934, founded by Nagata Masaichi, the former head of planning at Nikkatsu, the same year (see KYÔ MACHIKO; WAR AND FILM). Here he mentored Japan’s first woman director, Sakane Tazuko, supervising her feature *First Figure* (*Hatsu sugata*, 1936), and began collaborating with the screenwriter who would script much of his finest work, Yoda Yoshikata. Yoda wrote Mizoguchi’s first notable commercial and critical successes: *Osaka Elegy* (*Naniwa ereji*, 1936), a *gendai-geki* in which a young telephone secretary finds herself on the wrong side of the law after becoming the mistress of her boss in order to pay off her father’s debts and her elder brother’s university tuition fees (although the film originally faced **copyright** problems due to its “decadent” modernist mood; see also TENDENCY FILM); and *Sisters of the Gion* (*Gion no shimai*, 1936), whose poignant story following the twin fates of two sisters who work in Kyoto as geishas and their different attitudes to money resulted in the film being hailed as the best of its year by *Kinema Junpô* magazine. After the demise of Dai-Ichi, Mizoguchi followed Nagata to Shinkô Kinema in 1937, then moved to **Shochiku** in 1939, where he worked until 1949 and made what is regarded as one of the finest of his prewar films, *The Story of the Late Chrysanthemums* (*Zangiku monogatari*, 1939). Set in Tokyo in 1888, it recounted the story of the real-life Kabuki actor Onoe Kikunosuke and his rise to success due to the sacrifice and support of his low-caste lover, the nurse of his father’s adopted son.

As with other directors, Mizoguchi’s artistic vision was compromised by the nationalistic climate of the war years. The now-lost *Camp Song* (*Roei no uta*, 1938) was a home-front drama about a low-class mother being disinherited by her proud father-in-law after her husband is sent to the front line. His two-part version of the period drama *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Genroku Chûshingura*, 1941–1942) was produced by Shochiku at official government request to espouse the “traditional” values of loyalty and self-sacrifice inherent within the *Chûshingura* legend. In *Miyamoto Musashi* (*Miyamoto Musashi*, 1944), about the legendary 16th-century figure who rose from humble origins to be-

come a master samurai, and *The Famous Swordsman* (*Meitô bijomaru*, 1945), Mizoguchi moved away from the contemporary reality of the war years to historical settings, while he also directed one of the three parts of *Victory Song* (*Hishshôka*, 1945), along with **Shimizu Hiroshi** and Tasaka Tomotaka.

It was during this period that he made the first in a series of films, beginning with the now-lost *A Woman of Osaka* (*Naniwa onna*, 1940), starring the actress **Tanaka Kinuyo**, with whom he was romantically linked for a time. These include *Victory of Women* (*Josei no shôri*, 1946), a contemporary drama written by Ozu's scriptwriter Noda Kôgo and **Shindô Kaneto**, about a female lawyer who must defend a woman who has suffocated her infant son after her husband dies in an industrial accident, leaving her destitute and distraught; *Five Women Around Utamaro* (*Utamaro o meguru gonin no onna*, 1946), about the Edo-period woodblock (*ukiyo-e*) artist Utamaro and his muses; *Women of the Night* (*Yoru no onnatachi*, 1948), about prostitutes in postwar Osaka; and *My Love Has Been Burning* (*Waga koi wa moenu*, 1949), adapted from a novel by Noda about a woman's rights campaigner in the 1880s whose pursuit of equality is threatened by her devotion to her ambitious politician husband.

After leaving Shochiku, Mizoguchi made two films at **Shintoho**, *Portrait of Madame Yuki* (*Yuki fujin ezu*, 1950) and *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952). The second of these starred Tanaka in one of her most celebrated roles and charted the tragic fall from grace of a lady-in-waiting at the Imperial Court in 17th-century Kyoto after she and her family are banished due to her forbidden love for a commoner, played by **Mifune Toshirô**. However, the remainder of the films he made during the rest of his career were at Daiei, with his first film at the studio, *Miss Oyu* (*Oyû-sama*, 1951), based on a story by **Tanizaki Junichirô** in which a young man falls in love with the widowed elder sister of a woman he meets at an *omiai* formal marriage introduction.

During his time at Daiei, Mizoguchi regularly collaborated with the cinematographer **Miyagawa Kazuo**, who shot some of his finest films of the period, including *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953), a haunting adaptation of a story by Ueda Akinari about two peasant brothers-in-law driven by greed and lust during the chaos of the Warring States period of the 16th century, one of whom falls for a mysterious, ghostly noblewoman, Lady Wakasa, played by **Kyô Machiko** (see also HORROR); *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayû*, 1954), in which a brother and sister are separated from their mother (Tanaka) and forced into slavery during the late Heian period by the brutal bailiff of the title; and Mizoguchi's final film, *Street of Shame* (*Akasen chitai*, 1956), starring Kyô as one of a group of prostitutes facing an uncertain future as the Anti-Prostitution Law (*baishun bôshi-hô*) of 1956 comes into effect. Many of these later films were screened overseas at the time of their release.

Before *Street of Shame*, Mizoguchi directed his only two color titles: *Princess Yang Kwei-fei* (*Yôkihi*, 1955), a coproduction with Hong Kong's Shaw Brothers studio set in eighth-century China and filmed by Sugiyama Kôhei (best known for his work with **Kinugasa Teinosuke**), depicted the misfortunes of a common-born woman who is swept away in the political turmoil of the era after she is favored by the last T'ang Emperor and utilized as a political pawn by her power-hungry family members, and the 12th-century historical epic *Tales of the Taira Clan* (*Shin heike monogatari*, 1955), filmed by Miyagawa. He died in Kyoto of leukemia in 1956, at the age of 58. In 1975, Shindô Kaneto celebrated his career in the documentary *Kenji Mizoguchi: The Life of a Film Director* (*Aru eiga kantoku no shôgai: Mizoguchi Kenji no kiroku*).

MOCHINAGA TADAHITO (持永只仁, 1919–1999). Mochinaga Tadahito was a pioneering Japanese animator (*see ANIME*) who also worked in China. His innovations include developing Japan's first multiplane camera, establishing the Shanghai Animation Film Studio, and introducing stop-motion animation to Japan.

After studying animation at the Japan Art School, Mochinaga worked as a set designer at the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater. He entered the commercial animation industry in 1938, initially assisting Seo Mitsuyo on two cell-animated works sponsored by the Ministry of Education, the second of which, the 11-minute *Ant Boy* (*Ari-chan*, 1941), utilized a four-level multiplane camera of Mochinaga's own design to allow for motion in depth. It was about a young ant entranced by the magical violin playing of a grasshopper. Mochinaga also assisted Seo on *Momotaro, Eagle of the Sea* (*Momotarô no umiwashi*, 1943), a reconstruction of the bombing of Pearl Harbor (here referred to as Onigashima, or "Devil's Island"), in which the young Peach Boy of Japanese folktale leads a squadron of monkeys, rabbits, pheasants, and other animals to their victory.

After he supervised his first film as a director, *Fuku-chan's Submarine* (*Fuku-chan no sensuikan*, 1944), Mochinaga's house in Tokyo was destroyed in a bombing raid. In June 1945, he left Tokyo with his wife for Manchuria to join his parents, who had settled there, and joined the **Manchuria Film Association**. He remained in Manchuria for several years after the war, as the Man'ei studios were taken over by the Chinese and renamed Tong Pei (East North) Film Studios. (These studios would move location on several occasions, though eventually their Animation Division was moved to Shanghai as part of Shanghai Film Studios and became an independent enterprise as the Shanghai Animation Film Studio, in 1956.) Here he made *The Emperor's Dream* (1947), a 35-minute political caricature of the Kuomintang national-

ist leader Chiang Kai-shek, using stop-motion animation and stylistically influenced by Peking Opera. Though made in China, it counts as the first stop-motion animation made by a Japanese director. This was followed by the similarly parodic, hand-drawn cell animation *A Turtle in the Pot* (1948), for which Mochinaga was credited under the Chinese name Fan Ming.

Mochinaga returned to Japan in 1953 and joined Iizawa Tadasu (1909–1994) and **Kawamoto Kihachirô** in making animated films similar to those of Eastern European animators like Ladislav Starevich and Jiri Trnka, whose work had been released earlier in Japan. Their first work was two TV commercials made in 1953 for Asahi Beer, utilizing a pair of Kawamoto's puppets that had graced the company's promotion posters from 1950 onward. This was followed by the more ambitious *Beer, Those Were the Days . . .* (*Bîru mukashi mukashi*, 1956), a 12-minute color promotional film released to cinemas that also utilized animated cellophane cut-out sequences realized by **Ôfuji Noburô**. The same year, Mochinaga's 18-minute *Princess Melon and the Changeling* (*Uriko-hime to Amanjaku*) was released, based on a stage play written in the postwar period and later adapted as a Bunraku play for children. The Amanjaku of the title originally referred to a mystical water demon from folklore, but is now used in everyday parlance to describe anyone who adopts a contrary position to what others say or intend. After establishing *Ningyô Eiga Seisakusho* (Puppet Animation Film Studio), Mochinaga created a total of nine work stop-motion animations for children between 1956 and 1979, assisted by Kawamoto until 1958. Short works produced during this period included *Five Little Monkeys* (*Gohiki no kozarutachi*, 1956), *The Magic Drum* (*Fushiki na Taiko*, 1957), and *Kobutori* (1958).

Mochinaga's *Sambo's Tiger Conquest* (*Chibi Kuro Sanbo no Tora Taiji*, 1956), based on the *Little Black Sambo* stories of Helen Bannerman (1862–1946), received the Grand Prize in the Best Films for Children category at the first Vancouver International Film Festival, leading to an invitation by Arthur J. Rankin Jr. to work on a number of U.S.–Japanese coproductions with the American company Rankin-Bass (then Videocraft). He is credited as animation supervisor Tad Mochinaga on *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (1964), *The Daydreamer* (1966), and *Mad Monster Party?* (1967).

Mochinaga continued his career balancing work in Japan and China, working in news film production for Beijing Central Television from 1967 to 1978, and lecturing at Beijing University from 1985 to 1986. He played a critical role in the establishment of the Hiroshima Animated Film Festival in 1985 and directed his final work *The Boy and the Little Raccoon* (*Shônen to kodanuki*) in 1992.

MONSTER MOVIES. See *KAIJÛ EIGA*.

N

NAKAGAWA NOBUO (中川信夫, 1905–1984). Nakagawa Nobuo is considered the founding father of the **horror** film genre in Japan and has been regularly cited as an influence by the generation of directors making films for the **J-Horror** market, such as **Nakata Hideo**, **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, and Shimizu Takashi. Though traditional *kaidan* ghost story adaptations have existed since the earliest days of Japanese cinema, Nakagawa is often seen as having pioneered a more modern approach to the genre, with titles like *The Ghost of Kasane* (*Kaidan kasanegafuchi*, 1957), *Black Cat Mansion* (*Bôrei kaibyô yashiki*, 1958), and *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (*Tôkaidô yotsuya kaidan*, 1959), often starring the sinister-looking Amachi Shigeru, marked out by chilling atmospheres and a more emphatic approach to their thrills.

Emerging following the austerity and **censorship** restrictions of both the **war** years and the ensuing Occupation period, such films were fostered under the auspices of maverick producer Ôkura Mitsugi, who, due to competition from the other major studios and a general lack of production funds, steered the output of the **Shintoho** studios where the director made his finest work in a more populist direction, catering to audiences eager for more sensationalist escapist fantasies. Nakagawa's films routinely drew on the more gruesome aspects of the nation's exuberant tradition of folklore and literature, thus mirroring rather than echoing the popular appeal of Terence Fisher's sensual and culturally specific reinterpretations of the Frankenstein and Dracula stories made by Britain's Hammer Films during the same period. However, many of the 97 films he made did not belong within the horror genre.

Born in Kyoto on 18 April 1905 yet raised in Kobe, Nakagawa entered the film industry in 1929 as an assistant to Makino Masahiro (see MAKINO SHÔZÔ). He made his debut with the period drama *Sword of the God of War* (*Yumiya Hachiman-ken*, 1934). In 1939, he moved to **Toho**, where he embarked on a series of five musical comedies starring the diminutive popular comic Enomoto Kenichi, affectionately known as Enoken, beginning with *Enoken's Ishimatsu of the Forest* (*Enoken no mori no ishimatsu*, 1939). In 1942, as the war reached its height, Nakagawa moved to Shanghai and made **documentaries** at the China Film Company (*Chunghwa Dyan-ying*), founded

by **Kawakita Nagamasa** in 1939. After his return, he joined Shintohe and made *Horse Carriage Story* (*Basha monogatari*, 1948).

Putting his name to an average of half a dozen titles a year, Nakagawa's work at Shintohe encompassed a wide range of styles, including musicals and comedies like *The Adventures of Tobisuke* (*Enoken no Tobisuke bôken ryokô*, 1949), which reunited the director with Enoken; literary adaptations such as *The Grass Cutter Girl* (*Shishun no izumi*, 1953) and *Kaachan* (1961); film noir-style mysteries like *Lynch* (*Rinchi*, 1949); and period dramas such as *A Wicked Woman* (*Dokufu Takahashi Oden*, 1958), which told the story of the notorious "poison wife," Takahashi Oden, who was executed for murder during the Meiji era. Yet his stylish horrors, including *The Ceiling at Utsunomiya* (*Kaii Utsunomiya tsuritenjô*, 1956), his first work in this genre; *The Lady Vampire* (*Onna kyûketsuki*, 1959); and in particular *The Ghost of Yotsuya* (1959), represent both the director's and his studio's crowning achievements. His most celebrated title, *Jigoku* (1960), was an opulent morality tale culminating in a lavish and full-blooded evocation of the torments of Buddhist hell. Sadly, its production went far over budget, and at the time it was only a modest box-office success, bankrupting the studio in 1961.

During the 1960s, Nakagawa balanced television work with a further six films, with his three titles for **Toei** falling within the genres of horror, *Snake Woman's Curse* (*Kaidan: Hebi onna*, 1968); and *yakuza*, *Okatsu the Avenger* (*Yôen dokufuden: Hitokiri Okatsu*, 1969) and its sequel, *Okatsu's Criminal Journey* (*Yôen dokufuden: Okatsu kyôjôtabi*, 1969), both intended to capitalize on the success of the popular *Red Peony Gambler* (*Hibotan bakuto*) series inaugurated the same year, starring Fuji Junko (see TOEI COMPANY). After a decade of inactivity in the 1970s and following Kumashiro Tatsumi's 1979 remake of *Jigoku*, Nakagawa directed his final work, *The Living Koheiji* (*Ikiteiru koheiji*, 1982), a characteristically atmospheric ghost story produced by the **Arts Theater Guild** (ATG) and featuring only three characters. He died of a heart attack at the age of 79.

NAKASHIMA TETSUYA (中島哲也, 1959–). The films of Nakashima Tetsuya, along with those of directors such as Ishii Katsuhiro, Miki Satoshi, and Kudô Kankurô, are representative of a significant change in approach adopted by many directors during the early years of the 21st century toward a more hedonistic form of Japanese cinema. Such works are typified by their digressive narratives; exaggerated performances; irreverent humor (predominantly of a visual nature); vibrant use of color; and a style that integrates hand-drawn or computer-generated animation with video and filmmaking techniques such as jump cuts, freeze frames, and fast forwards/rewinds, clearly influenced by British director Guy Ritchie's *Lock, Stock and*

Two Smoking Barrels (1998), as evidenced by the casting of Vinnie Jones in Sekiguchi Gen's *Survive Style 5+* (*Sabaibu sutairu faibu purasu*, 2004), a work typical of this strain.

Born in Fukuoka, Nakashima made his first film, *Hano ji wasurete* (1981), an 8mm *jishu eiga* that screened at the fifth **PIA Film Festival** in 1982, while studying at Tokyo's Meiji University. After graduating, he established himself as a freelance director of television commercials (CMs) before making the second installment of *Bakayaro! I'm Plenty Mad* (*Bakayarô! Watashi okkote masu*, 1988), a four-story comedy omnibus written by Morita Yoshimitsu, in which individuals rail against the ludicrousness of Japanese society. This was followed by the quirky but deadpan satires *Happy Go Lucky* (*Natsu jikan no otonatachi*, 1997), about children growing up among dysfunctional adults, and *Beautiful Sunday* (1998), a portrait of the inhabitants of an apartment block.

Nakashima's first major commercial success was *Kamikaze Girls* (*Shimotsuma monogatari*, 2004), a touching portrait of two teenage misfits living in rural Ibaraki Prefecture that established his eye-catching style and was widely distributed overseas. This was followed by *Memories of Matsuko* (*Kiraware Matsuko no isshô*, 2006), a gaudy and inventive musical whose style belied its tragic content as it charted the downward trajectory into alcoholism and homelessness of a young woman (Nakatani Miki), in a vein similar to **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952); and *Paco and the Magic Book* (*Pako to mahô no ehon*, 2008), a children's film shot in a magical realist style, in which **Yakusho Kôji** played a cantankerous, misanthropic resident of a hospital whose life is slowly transformed by another patient, a six-year-old girl who has lost her parents in a car accident and is unable to form new memories. Nakashima also wrote the screenplay for Miyano Masayuki's *Lalapipo* (*Rarapipo*, 2008), about various characters involved in the Japanese sex industry; like Nakashima's own films, the ostentatious style was at odds with the rather more serious subject matter.

NAKATA HIDEO (中田秀夫, 1961–). One of the most prominent Japanese film directors to emerge in the late 1990s, due to the international success of *Ring* (*Ringu*, 1998), Nakata Hideo is most associated with the **J-Horror** boom (see also **HORROR**). Beginning his career as an assistant to Konuma Masaru at **Nikkatsu** on **Roman Porno** titles like *Woman in a Box* (*Hako no naka no onna*, 1985), he left the company in the late 1980s, later making a **documentary** about his mentor entitled *Sadistic and Masochistic* (*Sadistikkû & mazohisutikkû*, 2001).

Nakata made his directing debut with a number of episodes in TV Asahi Corporation's series *Scary True Stories* (*Hontô ni atta kowai hanashi*, 1992; not to be confused with JHV's **V-Cinema** series of the same name

from the previous year), pairing him for the first time with screenwriter Takahashi Hiroshi. Shortly afterward, a scholarship from the Ministry of Education afforded him the opportunity to study in London, where he filmed the documentary *Joseph Losey: The Man with Four Faces* (*Josefu Rôshi: Yotsu no na o motsu otoko*), about the blacklisted American director, edited after his return to Japan (the film was released in 1998). Following two erotic V-Cinema titles, Nakata made his theatrical feature debut with *Ghost Actress* (*Joyûrei*, 1996), set in a haunted film studio, which he followed with the **yakuza** film *A Town Without Pity* (*Ansatsu no machi*, 1997) and episodes of the 1997 season of Kansai TV's *Haunted School* (*Gakkô no kaidan*, 1994–2001) television series.

With the success of *Ring* (1998) and its sequel, *Ring 2* (*Ringu 2*, 1999), both scripted by Takahashi like his previous two features, Nakata was courted by Hollywood, where he eventually directed *The Ring Two* (2005), the sequel to the original Hollywood remake. His experiences informed the documentary *Foreign Filmmakers' Guide to Hollywood* (*Hariuddo kantoku gaku nyûmon*, 2009). His other works in the horror genre include *Dark Water* (*Honogurai mizu no soko kara*, 2002), in which a recently separated mother and her six-year-old daughter move into a haunted apartment that regularly floods; *Kaidan* (2007), a period ghost story based on **Sanyûtei Enchô**'s *The Ghost of Kasane Swamp* (*Shinkei Kasanegafuchi*); *L: Change the World* (*L Change the World*, 2008), a spin-off from Kaneko Shûsuke's *Death Note* (*Desu nôto*, 2006) manga adaptations (see also NIKKATSU CORPORATION); and the British-produced *Chatroom* (2010). Outside of horror, Nakata has also directed *The Sleeping Bride* (*Garasu no nô*, 2000), a live-action adaptation of a manga by **Tezuka Osamu**; the kidnapping thriller *Chaos* (*Kaosu*, 2000); and *Last Scene* (2002), a nostalgic melodrama set in a film studio.

NARUSE MIKIO (成瀬巳喜男, 1905–1969). Naruse Mikio remained little known overseas throughout his long career as a director between 1930 and 1967, during which time he made 88 films. This is ironic given that his family melodrama, *Wife, Be Like a Rose* (*Tsuma yo bara no yô ni*, 1935), in which a Westernized young **woman** attempts to reunite her estranged parents in order to legitimize her own forthcoming marriage, bears the distinction of being the first-ever Japanese talkie to play in North America (it was released in an abridged version as *Kimiko*, after the name of its heroine, in New York on April 1937; Naruse was married to the film's star Sachiko Chiba between 1937 and 1940). Several of the director's works were voted the best of their year by *Kinema Junpô*, with *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955) listed as the second best Japanese film of all time after *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954) in a poll of the magazine's critics for its 80th anniversary in 1999.

Born 20 August 1905, Naruse's parents died when he was still a child, and he was brought up by his elder siblings. He entered the newly established **Shochiku** studios at Kamata in 1921, at the same time as **Ozu Yasujirô** and **Shimizu Hiroshi**. However, while his contemporaries were directing within three years of joining the studio, it was 10 years before Naruse made his debut with *Mr. and Mrs. Sword Play* (*Chanbara jûfu*, 1930). This has been attributed to his inability to get along with studio president Kido Shirô as well as a reputedly melancholic personality that seemed ill-suited to the material he was assigned, modernist suburban comedies typical of those favored by the studio during this period, titles like *A Record of Shameless Newlyweds* (*Oshikiri shinkonki*, 1930), *Under the Neighbors' Roof* (*Tonari no yane no shita*, 1931), and *Flunky, Work Hard!* (*Koshiben ganbare*, 1931), his earliest extant work.

In 1933, he established his name with the more earnest dramas *Apart from You* (*Kimi to wakarete*), about a geisha and her tearaway teenage son, and *Nightly Dreams* (*Yogoto no yume*), in which Kurishima Sumiko plays a woman who endures social opprobrium as she works as a bar hostess to raise her son after her husband deserts her. The films took third and fourth place respectively in *Kinema Junpô*'s annual Best Ten. This critical success did not however appease Kido Shirô, who famously said, "We don't need another Ozu here," a reference to the type of films the two directors made, rather than the style. Realizing he was never going to fulfill his artistic ambitions at Shochiku, after directing a further two titles for the studio, Naruse moved to the newly founded P.C.L. Studio (see TOHO) in 1935, where he made his first sound film, *Three Sisters with Maiden Hearts* (*Otome-gokoro sannin kyôdai*, 1935), from an original story by **Kawabata Yasunari** about three sisters who earn their living as *shamisen* players. His third film for this new company, *Wife, Be Like a Rose* (1935), was his first to be voted the best of its year by *Kinema Junpô* magazine, but received a lukewarm reception upon its U.S. release. While Naruse maintained a consistent output throughout the **war** years, his work from this period is not highly regarded compared with his earlier successes.

Naruse rose to critical prominence once again in the 1950s with a series of bleak but poignant works that dealt with the harsh mundanities of the contemporary life of women, constructed in a style that eschewed long takes, ostentatious camera work, and major dramatic arcs, instead deriving their power through strong performances and a dense and steady accumulation of simple incidents and details. Some of his best work from the period was adaptations of the novelist Hayashi Fumiko (1903–1951). *Repast* (*Meshi*, 1951) was a portrait of a failing marriage, starring Uehara Ken and **Hara Setsuko**; *Late Chrysanthemums* (*Bangiku*, 1954) depicted a group of aging

geisha coming to terms with the changes of postwar society; and *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955) charted an impossible love affair between a couple (**Takamine Hideko** and Mori Masayuki) who first meet in French Indochina during the war after their return to Tokyo. Takamine starred in Naruse's 1962 biopic of the author, *A Wanderer's Notebook* (*Hôkôri*). Other standout films include *Mother* (*Okaasan*, 1952), featuring **Tanaka Kinuyo** as the woman left to raise four children alone during the postwar years after the death of her husband; *The Sound of the Mountain* (*Yama no oto*, 1954), adapted from a novel by Kawabata about the relationship between a young woman (Hara) and her father-in-law (Yamamura Sô) when her own marriage looks like it is failing; and *Flowing* (*Nagareru*, 1956), about the occupants of a geisha house faced with mounting financial difficulties in the run-up to the government ban on prostitution.

As the end of the decade approached, like his contemporaries Naruse looked set to be overshadowed by a new generation of filmmakers. While his first color title, *Summer Clouds* (*Iwashigumo*, 1958), was a sedately paced portrait of a farming family, he achieved a late career masterpiece with *When a Woman Ascends the Stairs* (*Onna ga kaidan wo agaru toki*, 1960), starring Takamine as a bar hostess who realizes her options are becoming limited as she gets older. Though Naruse continued to direct throughout the 1960s, his output dwindled to a film a year and became less characteristic in films such as *Hit and Run* (*Hikinige*, 1966), a thriller in which Takamine plays a widow who seeks revenge on the wife of a wealthy automobile company executive who ran over her only son. His final film was *Scattered Clouds* (*Midaregumo*, 1967), again featuring a fatal car accident and an impossible love affair, between a widow and the man responsible for her husband's death.

NEW EARTH, THE (**ATARASHIKI TSUCHI**, 新しき土, 1937). See **DAUGHTER OF THE SAMURAI**.

NIKKATSU CORPORATION (**NIKKATSU KABUSHIKIGAISHA**, 日活株式会社). The oldest of the major studios (although **Shochiku** was founded in 1895, it did not commence film production until 1920), Nikkatsu traces its origins back to the Greater Japan Film Machinery Manufacturing Company (*Dai-Nihon Firumu Kikai Seizô Kaisha*) in 1909, a trust formed by the companies **M. Pathé**, **Yoshizawa**, **Yokota**, and **Fukuhôdô** with the aim of monopolizing the new motion picture industry. In 1912, the companies officially merged to form the Japan Cinematograph Company (*Nippon katsudô shashin kaisha*), which was abbreviated to Nikkatsu. With **Yokota Einosuke** as its president, a chain of 70 theaters across the country, three studios in Tokyo, and a further one in Kyoto, it carved out a strong position in the early

film market with its popular melodramas and *chanbara*, with the films made by **Makino Shôzô** starring **Onoe Matsunosuke** dominating the box office in the 1910s. Following the destruction wrought by the 1923 Great Kantô Earthquake, Nikkatsu moved production entirely down to Kyoto, only returning to Tokyo in 1934 when it established a studio in the suburb of Chôfu, Tamagawa (see KADOKAWA PICTURES). Directors who established their careers at Nikkatsu in the 1920s include Itô Daisuke, **Mizoguchi Kenji**, and **Uchida Tomu**, while popular stars launched by the studio include Kataoka Chiezô, **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, and Irie Takako (see WOMEN).

Nikkatsu began experimenting with rudimentary sound-on-disk technology at the end of the 1920s, resulting in the features *The Captain's Daughter* (*Taii no musume*, 1929), directed by Ochiai Namio, and *Hometown* (*Fujiwara Yoshie no furusato*, 1930), directed by Mizoguchi. Both were judged technical and financial failures, but in April 1932 the company released its first official talkie, Mizoguchi's *Timely Mediator* (*Toki no ujigami*), which led to a mass picket of its cinemas by militant *benshi* and orchestra union members, causing the company considerable disruption.

In 1934, Yokota was ousted from his position as president and replaced by Nakatani Sadayori (1887–1954), who commenced a massive restructuring of the company, with many employees fired or leaving of their own accord. One of these was Nagata Masaichi (1906–1985), who since joining the company in 1924 had risen through the ranks to become head of production at the company's newly opened Chôfu studios, a post he enjoyed for only a few months before leaving to found the short-lived Dai-Ichi Motion Pictures (*Dai-Ichi Eiga*), where he was joined by the former Nikkatsu directors Itô and Mizoguchi. Nagata subsequently moved to Shinkô Kinema in 1937 and played an instrumental role in the foundation of **Daiei**. Negishi Kanichi (1894–1962) replaced Nagata as head of production until 1938, when he moved to the **Manchuria Film Association** (*Manshû Eiga Kyôkai*). In 1935, Hori Kyûsaku (1900–1974) was appointed as Nikkatsu's managing director, later to become the company president in 1947.

The company continued to struggle financially throughout the decade due to mounting competition from its rivals, and between 1937 and 1938, **Shochiku** and the new **Toho** studio competed for a controlling interest in it. In 1942, with the **wartime** government's restructuring of the industry, Nikkatsu's production arm was split off and merged with two smaller enterprises, Shinkô and Daito, to become Daiei, leaving Nikkatsu to function solely in a distribution and exhibition capacity. In the war's immediate aftermath, Nikkatsu exclusively distributed foreign films while expanding its interests in the entertainment industry to manage a number of sports and leisure venues. In 1954, against considerable opposition from the other major studios, company president Hori

resumed production at its newly constructed studio complex near to its prewar production facilities in Chôfu (now owned by Daiei). Its first releases were the *jidai-geki* *Chuji Kunisada* (*Kunisada Chûji*), directed by Takizawa Eisuke, and *Thus I Dreamed* (*Kakute yume ari*), directed by Chiba Yasuki.

Nikkatsu found its identity in 1956 with the release of Furukawa Takumi's *Season of the Sun* (*Taiyô no kisetsu*) and Nakahira Kô's *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*), establishing the *taiyôzoku* genre of youth-oriented movies for a new generation of postwar filmgoers. **Ishihara Yujirô** was contracted to the studio as the first in a new line of matinee idols that included Kobayashi Akira, Akagi Keichirô, Nitani Hideaki, Takahashi Hideki, Watari Tetsuya, and Shishido Jô. The new brand of films they starred in became known as Nikkatsu Action, also known as *mukokuseki akushun*, or "borderless action films," because the fictional worlds created onscreen drew heavily from American and European cinema and bore little resemblance to any contemporary Japanese reality. Produced at a conveyor belt pace of about half a dozen a month and released on triple bills, these colorful program pictures drew heavily upon genres such as musicals, romances, gangster movies (both Japanese and foreign-produced), and even the American Western for their inspiration. Directors employed there at the time include **Masuda Toshio**, **Suzuki Seijun**, Kurahara Koreyoshi, Nomura Takashi, Saitô Buichi, and Ushihara Yôichi. During this same period, Nikkatsu also produced more artistically ambitious works by **Imamura Shôhei** and **Kumai Kei**.

By the end of the 1960s, Nikkatsu was again facing financial difficulties, following the departure of Ishihara, its most popular star, and a more general decline in cinema audiences. In 1968, the company was taken to court by Suzuki after he was fired by Hori for his "incomprehensible" *Branded to Kill* (*Koroshi no rakuin*, 1967). In order to retain audiences, Nikkatsu increased the adult content of their work, and in 1971 it switched production almost entirely over to a new brand of erotic pictures labeled **Roman Porno**, released at a similar rate to its Nikkatsu Action cycle but realized on the relatively low budget of ¥7.5 million. Hori stepped down as company president to be replaced by his son, Hori Masahiro. Though the company also released children's films, beginning its Nikkatsu Juvenile Film (*Nikkatsu shidô eiga*) line in 1974, Roman Porno dominated the company's output until 1988, when it was replaced, very briefly, by a new adult line called Ropponica.

Financial troubles again beset the company in 1992, following the box-office failure of its Manchuria-set war epic *The Setting Sun* (*Rakuyô*), directed by the writer Tomono Rô from his own novel, with an exorbitant ¥5 million budget and Western stars, including Donald Sutherland and Diane Lane. The company briefly went into receivership, then was acquired by the games giant Namco. Having retained its Chôfu studio facilities, it resumed film produc-

tion in 1997 with Kumai's *To Love (Ai suru)*, although at a vastly reduced rate of one or two modestly budgeted titles a year by directors including **Kawase Naomi**, Kitamura Ryûhei, and **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, and often in coproduction partnerships with other film or television companies. Nikkatsu was one of the partners involved in the production of *Death Note (Desu nôto, 2006)* and *Death Note: The Last Name (Desu nôto: The Last Name, 2006)*, adapted from Ôba Tsugumi and Obata Takeshi's *manga* about a cursed book that causes the death of anyone whose name is written in it (the films were directed by Kaneko Shûsuke, who began his career making Roman Porno films), and coproduced *Yatterman (Yattâman, 2009)*, directed by Miike Takashi, with Shochiku. In 2010, it announced the return of its Roman Porno line, with the release of two new erotic films. The company currently operates a number of theatrical venues across Japan, as well as the Neco and Rainbow cable and satellite channels.

O

ÔFUJI NOBURÔ (大藤信郎, 1900–1961). Ôfuji Noburô was one of the first Japanese animators to gain significant attention in the West. Born in Tokyo's Asakusa district, at the age of 18 he began studying animation (*see AN-IME*) at the studio of one of its earliest pioneers, Kouchi Junichi, although by the time he was 21 he had left to set up his own studio, Chiyogami Eigasha, in his home. He continued to make his short animated films independently throughout the rest of his life.

Ôfuji is known for his specialization in *kiri-gami* (“cut-out”) techniques. His early films in particular made use of *chiyogami*, a decorative paper developed in the Edo period, printed with colorful woodblock patterns, with which he composed his scenes and animated his characters' body parts. Typical early shorts include *The Story of Songoku* (*Saiyûki songokû monogatari*, 1926), based on the Chinese literary classic *Journey to the West*; *A Ship of Oranges* (*Mikansen*, 1927), telling how Edo-period entrepreneur Monzaemon Kinokuniya made his fortune shipping oranges from the South to the nation's capital; and *Black Cat* (*Kuro-nyago*, 1929), an early three-minute-long experiment in synched-sound techniques featuring two cats dancing to a jazz accompaniment.

Ôfuji also used cell animation in *Chinkoroheibei and the Treasure Box* (*Chinkoroheibei tama tebako*, 1936), a version of the *Urashima Taro* folktale, and *kage-e* (“silhouette”) animation in *Dream of a Snowy Night* (*Yuki no yoru no yume*, 1947). In 1953, his remake of his 1927 film *Whale* (*Kujira*), using multicolored collages of cellophane, won second prize for best short film at the Cannes Film Festival, while his final film, *The Phantom Ship* (*Yûreisen*, 1956), was awarded the Grand Prix at the Venice Film Festival in 1956. Due to this international recognition, following his death in 1961, the *Mainichi Shinbun* newspaper established an award in his name recognizing outstanding artistic achievements in short animation films.

OGAWA SHINSUKE (小川紳介, 1935–1992). Ogawa Shinsuke was the leader and main credited director for Ogawa Pro, the most significant **documentary** collective in Japanese cinema history. Its early films, the best

known of which are the seven-title series released between 1968 and 1973 depicting the violent struggles surrounding the construction of Narita airport, are characterized by a strong left-wing, antiauthoritarian stance, and provide a vivid portrait of the turbulent political arena of the times. The latter works increased the focus on agricultural communities and the Japanese people's relationship to their land and history, adopting a more meditative and discursive format.

During its productions, Ogawa Pro's members lived for long periods among their subjects. However, the politicized content and noncommercial formats of its output necessitated the collective developing its own alternative **independent** distribution network, exhibiting its works outside traditional theaters in places such as municipal halls, university campuses, and purpose-built temporary theaters. Ogawa Pro also had international connections, screening the works of similar groups in France and America, such as those produced by the Newsreel group of filmmakers led by Jonas Mekas.

Ogawa began his filmmaking career at **Iwanami Productions**, which he entered in 1960, initially as an assistant to Kuroki Kazuo. After working on and directing a number of his own projects, he left the company to go independent in 1964, and in 1966 he made *Sea of Youth: Four Correspondence Course Students* (*Seishun no umi: Yonin no tsûshin kyôikusei*), about part-time students threatened by a new law requiring them to complete their studies within a fixed number of years. The Hosei and Keio University students highlighted in the film all assisted on the production and in getting the finished work shown, with the experience of creating a political movement about the film leading directly to the formation of Ogawa Pro. Ogawa followed it with *Forest of Oppression: A Record of the Struggle at Takasaki City University of Economics* (*Assatsu no mori: Takasakikeizai daigaku tôsô no kiroku*, 1967) and *Report from Haneda* (*Gennin hokusho: Haneda tôsô no kiroku*, 1967), a record of student protesters clashing with the police at Haneda Airport as they attempted to prevent Prime Minister Satô Eisaku from visiting the United States during the Vietnam War, an incident resulting in the death of one of the protesters.

Following these early works, Ogawa Pro's filmography can be divided into halves, with the first period consisting of the monumental *Sanrizuka* series, beginning with *Summer in Sanrizuka* (*Nihon kaihô sensen: Sanrizuka no natsu*, 1968), which chronicled the struggle of local farmers against the government's decision to build Tokyo's new Narita International Airport on their land. The peak of the protests, captured in *Sanrizuka: Peasants of the Second Fortress* (*Sanrizuka: Dainitoride no hitobito*, 1971), showed the farmers' ranks swelled by hordes of sympathetic students and members from radical left-wing groups, with around 20,000 protesters amassed against 30,000

police. Throughout the filming of the series, the filmmakers were as much participants in the struggle as chroniclers, resulting in such incendiary scenes of the riots shot by Ogawa's regular cameraman **Tamura Masaki** as those in *Sanrizuka: Three Day War in Narita* (*Sanrizuka: Daisanji kyôsei sokuryô soshi tôsen*, 1970).

In the second half of Ogawa Pro's history, the collective relocated to the small village of Magino in Yamagata Prefecture in the north of Japan, where for 16 years they lived communally as farmers, growing their own rice, while cataloging in meticulous detail the history, folklore, and daily practices of the local rural communities. The results include the extraordinarily expansive works *Furuyashiki Village* (*Nippon-koku: Furuyashiki-mura*, 1982) and *The Sundial Carved with a Thousand Years of Notches: The Magino Village Story* (*Sennen kizami no hidokei: Magino-mura monogatari*, 1986). The former won the FIPRESCI prize at the 1984 Berlin International Film Festival, while the latter was notable for its mesmerizing, five-minute single shot of a rice grain forming in its flower, setting the pace for its 222-minute running time. Before his premature death on 7 February 1992 from cancer of the colon, Ogawa was instrumental in establishing the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, which honored Ogawa Pro with the production of *Devotion* (2000), directed by the American experimental filmmaker Barbara Hammer, and assisted in the completion of Ogawa's unfinished *Red Persimmons* (*Manzan benigaki*, 2001) by the Chinese director Peng Xiaolian.

Though Ogawa served as a figurehead for the collective, the collaborative nature of Ogawa Pro's production methods should not be overestimated, with some calling into question the extent to which Ogawa can be said to have "directed" the films he is credited with. For example, the 1975 production *A Song of the Bottom* (*Dokkoi! Ningenbushi: Kotobuki jiyû rôdôsha no machi*, 1975), a portrait of the denizens of Yokohama's Kotobukicho slum district released between the Narita and Magino films, has been attributed to Yumoto Mareo. Nevertheless, the legacy of the movement he led is crucial to any understanding of recent Japanese documentary. *See also* ANPO AGREEMENT; JAPANESE NEW WAVE.

ONOE MATSUNOSUKE (尾上松之助, 1875–1926). Onoe Matsunosuke is considered the first real movie star in Japan. Born Nakamura Tsuruzô on 12 September 1875 in Okayama Prefecture, he made his stage debut when only five years old at the Onoe Tamizô company, named after the famous Kabuki actor who established it. He left home at the age of 14 to join a traveling theatrical troupe and changed his name to Onoe Tsurusaburô in 1892, before changing it to Onoe Matsunosuke in 1904.

During his early stage career, Onoe gained a reputation for his extravagant and highly physical style of acting in *kyūgeki*, or “old dramas” based on oral tales, or Kabuki plays set in the feudal era (see *SHINPA THEATER*). He was already an experienced actor when he made his screen debut in 1909 at the age of 34 in *Goban Tadanobu*, an adaptation of the Kabuki play *Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees* (*Yoshitsune senbon-zakura*), directed by **Makino Shōzō** for the Yokota Company. Despite his small size, Onoe was an animated presence on screen, and his expressive, wide-eyed facial expressions gained him the nickname *Medama no Machan* (“Eyeballs” Matsu). He rapidly became the most popular *jidai-geki* star of his day, playing roles based on fictitious or historical ninjas and samurai, and later became a powerful figure at **Nikkatsu**, where he remained for his entire career after the Yokota Company was merged to form the new studio, maintaining a tight grip on all of the productions in which he appeared.

Onoe was an incredibly prolific performer. At the height of his popularity circa 1917, he was making a new film every three days, with Makino directing over half of these. In 1921, following Makino’s withdrawal from Nikkatsu, Onoe took over the *jidai-geki* production unit at the company’s Kyoto studios. The 1925 film *Araki Mataemon*, directed by Ikeda Tomiyasu, was billed as his 1,000th screen appearance. Very few examples of Onoe’s screen craft have survived, although records show that his films ranged from a few minutes in length for his debut, to longer works of six reels. At 43 minutes in length when edited into one film, *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chūshingura*), shot by Makino Shōzō in a series of episodes released between 1910 and 1912, in which Onoe played three different characters, is the oldest feature-length fiction film in the National Film Center’s archives, although the print is missing four scenes. Other surviving titles include incomplete prints of *Jiraiya, the Ninja* (*Gōketsu Jiraiya*, 1921), *Bangoro Shibukawa* (*Shibukawa Bangorō*, 1922) and *True Account of the Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Jitsuroku Chūshingura*, 1926). Onoe died on 11 September 1926 of heart disease, after collapsing on the set of *Chivalry Under the New Moon* (*Kyūketsu mikazuki*), the first installment of which was released in July of that year.

OSHII MAMORU (押井守, 1951–). One of the most prominent and innovative figures working in the field of *anime*, Oshii Mamoru is best known for his two adaptations of Shirow Masamune’s manga series, *Ghost in the Shell* (*Kōkaku kidōtai*, 1995) and *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence* (*Inosensu*, 2004), the first Japanese animation to be entered in competition at Cannes. Set in a not-so-distant future in which society is subordinate to the machine, with economic, political, and even interpersonal relationships mediated by vast,

self-regulating networks, these stories depict the adventures of an anticyber terrorist division named Section Nine.

Following his graduation from Tokyo Gakugei University in 1976, Oshii's early work as an animation director includes episodes of the 52-part NHK television series adapted from the Swedish children's story *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* (*Nils no fushigi na tabi*, 1980) and an adaptation of Takahashi Rumiko's *Urusei Yatsura* manga for Fuji TV, which blended ribald fantasy, physical slapstick, and rip-roaring space opera in stories featuring an oversexed high-school student and his alien girlfriend. Oshii directed the first two of the six theatrical spin-offs, *Urusei Yatsura 1: Only You* (*Urusei yatsura: Onri yû*, 1983) and *Urusei Yatsura 2: Beautiful Dreamer* (*Urusei yatsura: Byûtifuru dorimâ*, 1984). Between the two films, Oshii made Japan's first **OVA anime**, *Dallos* (*Darosu*, 1983).

His third theatrical feature, *Angel's Egg* (*Tenshi no tamago*, 1985), a hypnotic non-narrative piece combining Christian and Buddhist imagery, saw Oshii's first departure into the more esoteric and philosophical domains that would mark his later films, while his work from the late 1990s on Bandai's long-running *Patlabor* series included OVA and TV episodes, with Oshii also directing two theatrical features, *Patlabor 1: The Movie* (*Kidô keisatsu patorebâ*, 1989) and its 1993 sequel. The stories revolved around the members of Special Vehicles Division 2, a law-enforcement unit formed to combat crime undertaken using "Labors," giant humanoid construction machines controlled by human workers.

Following the live-action features *The Red Spectacles* (*Akai megane*, 1987), *Stray Dog: Kerberos Panzer Cops* (*Keruberosu: jigoku no banken*, 1991), and *Talking Head* (*Tôkingu heddo*, 1992), Oshii's work was increasingly concerned with the issues inherent in representing reality, using combinations of hand-drawn 2D cell animation, live-action, and CG (computer graphics) in a self-reflective manner in films like *Avalon* (2000), with the footage shot in Poland augmented by cutting-edge digital technology, in a story about virtual reality war game addicts, and *Tachigui: The Amazing Lives of the Fast Food Grifters* (*Tachiguishi retsuden*, 2006), a "mockumentary" that reconstructed Japan's postwar history using animated cut-out photographs assembled on 3D virtual stages. Other experiments include the installation piece *Open Your Mind* (*Mezame no hakobune*, 2005). In 2008, Oshii returned to more conventional entertainment with *The Sky Crawlers* (*Sukai kurora*), about the exploits of a group of genetically modified fighter pilots who take part in manufactured aerial battles for commercial entertainment.

ÔSHIMA NAGISA (大島渚, 1932–). Ôshima Nagisa was a pivotal figure in what has been termed the **Japanese New Wave** cinema of the 1960s and

can be counted as the most influential Japanese filmmaker of his generation. While seldom polemical, his films contain strong political elements, depicting individuals, often young people, within the contexts of specific historical events, with each film adopting a different approach to different subject matter so that no two look the same.

Born in Kyoto, after graduating from Kyoto University's Law Department, Ôshima entered **Shochiku's** Ôfuna studios in 1954 as an assistant director, where he worked under directors including Nomura Yoshitarô, Oba Hideo, and Kobayashi Masaki. He quickly gained attention for his film scenarios as well as his trenchant criticism in *Eiga Hihyô* (*Film Criticism*), a leftist-aligned magazine established with friends **Hani Susumu**, Yoshida Kijû, and the critic Satô Tadao, which looked toward a new Japanese cinema more in tune with the concerns of the postwar generation.

Having impressed the studio bosses with *Tomorrow's Sun* (*Ashita no taiyô*, 1959), a seven-minute promotional film showcasing Shochiku's new intake of actors and actresses, Ôshima made his feature debut at the extraordinarily young age of 27 with *A Town of Love and Hope* (*Ai to kibô no machi*, 1959), a gritty work in the sociorealist vein about an impoverished teenager who, when his mother falls sick, is forced to bring in the household income through the scam of selling a pigeon that remarkably always returns to his home; this brings him into contact with the other side of the class divide when he meets the daughter of an electrical appliance factory owner. He followed his debut with *Cruel Story of Youth* (*Seishun zankoku monogatari*, 1960), his first film in color and his first significant box-office success; *The Sun's Burial* (*Taiyô no hakaba*, 1960); and *Night and Fog in Japan* (*Nihon no yoru to kiri*, 1960). The first two of these titles can be described as politicized variations of the then-popular *taiyôzoku* youth film genre, but *Night and Fog in Japan* took an overtly experimental and theatrical approach in its exploration of the left-wing resistance movement against the controversial renewal of the **Anpo Agreement** that year and was pulled from distribution by Shochiku after three days. Ôshima resigned from the company in protest and went **independent**, a bold and unprecedented act that earned him a great degree of admiration with many younger filmmakers and critics. The same year he married Koyama Akiko, who had appeared in the film.

After directing the independent production *The Catch* (*Shiiku*, 1961), adapted from a story by Oe Kenzaburô about a rural villager who captures an African-American airman during World War II, Ôshima spent the next few years trying to get new projects off the ground while also making **documentaries** for television. Over the next few years, he embarked on a string of influential titles through his own production company, Sôzôsha, including *Pleasures of the Flesh* (*Etsuraku*, 1965); *Violence at Noon* (*Hakuchû no*

tôrima, 1966); and *Manual of Ninja Martial Arts* (*Ninja bugeichô*, 1967), the latter consisting of still drawings from the *manga* by Shirato Sanpei, accompanied by voice-overs and sound effects.

Death by Hanging (*Kôshikei*, 1968), Ôshima's Brechtian indictment of the death penalty, produced in conjunction with the **Art Theater Guild** and focusing on discrimination against *zainichi* (Korean residents in Japan), brought the director a wider acclaim outside of Japan when it screened at Cannes and was picked up for foreign distribution by the Paris-based producer Anatole Dauman (1925–1998). After a number of works looking at youth culture, collective politics, and crime, including *Boy* (*Shônen*, 1969), in which a couple travel across the country staging traffic accidents using their children so as to claim damages from the drivers out of court, and more formally daring works such as *Diary of a Shinjuku Thief* (*Shinjuku dorobô nikki*, 1969) and *The Man Who Left His Will on Film* (*Tôkyô sensô sengo hiwa*, 1970), Ôshima consolidated his working relationship with Dauman after *The Ceremony* (*Gishiki*, 1971) screened at Cannes. The result was the French–Japanese coproduction *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korida*, 1976), which featured graphic portrayals of sexual activity in its account of the notorious Abe Sada incident. The film was released in a censored version in Japan, but upon the release of a book containing the script and images from the film, Ôshima was prosecuted under obscenity laws (see CENSORSHIP). While his trial was ongoing, he collaborated again with Dauman on the period ghost story *Empire of Passion* (*Ai no bôrei*, 1978). Throughout the 1970s, he continued to make documentary films for television.

In 1983, the **wartime** drama *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* (*Senjô no meri kurisumasu*), made in collaboration with British producer Jeremy Thomas and featuring Tom Conti, David Bowie, and **Kitano Takeshi**, strengthened Ôshima's international standing. His next film, *Max, Mon Amour* (*Makkusu mon amûru*, 1986), was a surreal comedy of manners written by Jean-Claude Carrière, in which a diplomat's wife, played by Charlotte Rampling, conducts a clandestine affair with a chimpanzee. It was his first film to use an entirely non-Japanese cast and crew, although it was not a great commercial success. After two documentaries, *Kyoto, My Mother's Place* (1991) for the BBC and *100 Years of Japanese Cinema* (1994) for the British Film Institute, he directed *Gohatto* (1999), a drama based on the stories of historical novelist Shiba Ryôtarô and set in Kyoto in 1865 just before the dawn of the Meiji Restoration, about homosexuality in the ranks of the elite militia force known as the *Shinsengumi*. The film, which he directed from a wheelchair after suffering a stroke, was his first in Japan for 20 years and his first produced by Shochiku in almost 40. It is certain to be his last.

ÔSUGI REN (大杉漣, 1951–). Ôsugi Ren is a versatile and extremely prolific character actor who has performed in well over 300 films, as well as making numerous appearances on stage and television. He is best known to non-Japanese audiences for his supporting roles in the films of **Kitano Takeshi**, which began with *Sonatine* (*Sonachine*, 1993) and include a stand-out performance in *Fireworks* (*Hana-bi*, 1998) as the main star's former police colleague, who takes up painting when he is left confined to a wheelchair after being wounded in the line of duty.

Ôsugi made his stage debut at the age of 22 as a member of the Tenkei Gekijô theatrical company, with whom he continued to act until it disbanded in 1988. His first screen roles were in **pink films**, with his debut in Takahashi Banmei's *Tightly Bound Sacrifice* (*Kinpaku ikenie*, 1980) followed by literally dozens of appearances in the genre, culminating in Kataoka Shûji's *Subway Serial Rape: Lover Hunting* (*Chikatetsu renzoku reipu: Aijin-gari*, 1988), produced by Mukai Kan's Shishi Production company but distributed by **Nikkatsu** as part of its **Roman Porno** line. He gained critical notice for his roles as Mitani, a parody of **Mishima Yukio**, in one of Japan's first gay sex films, Nakamura Genji's *Beautiful Mystery* (*Kyokon densetsu: Utsukushiki nazo*, 1983), and as the father in *Abnormal Family: Older Brother's Bride* (*Hentai kazoku: Aniki no yome-san*, 1984), a pastiche of the films of **Ozu Yasujiro** directed by Suô Masayuki, the future director of *Shall We Dance?*, in which Ôsugi also appeared.

As well as appearing in works by pink film directors who would later establish successful careers in the commercial mainstream, such as **Hiroki Ryûichi** and **Takita Yôjirô**, Ôsugi also appeared in several non-pink films from directors whose main background was in erotic filmmaking. His first such film was *Empire of Kids* (*Gaki teikoku*, 1981), distributed by the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG) and directed by Izutsu Kazuyuki, which was followed by two films directed by Takahashi Banmei, *Tattoo* (*Irezumi ari*, 1982), again for ATG, and *Wolf* (*Ôkami*, 1982), an early production from the **Director's Company**. He also appeared in one of Nakamura Genji's few nonerotic titles from that period, *Weekend Shuffle* (*Wikuendo shaffuru*, 1982), a comedy drama about a young boy who is kidnapped from his family.

After appearing in bit parts in Suô's *Fancy Dance* (*Fanshi dansu*, 1989), a comedy about a group of men who decide to withdraw from society by becoming Buddhist monks, and Takita's *Let's Go to the Hospital* (*Byôin e ikô*, 1990), throughout the early 1990s Ôsugi became a regular presence in **V-Cinema** titles. These included Takahashi's two-part *yakuza* film *Neo Chinpira: Zoom Goes the Bullet* (*Neo Chinpira: Teppôdama byu*, 1990–1991) for Toei Video (see TOEI COMPANY); **Miike Takashi's** *Bodyguard Kiba* (*Bodigâdo kiba*, 1993–1995) series; and a number of films by **Kurosawa**

Kiyoshi, including *Yakuza Taxi* (893 [*Yakuza*] *takushî*, 1994), the six-part *Suit Yourself or Shoot Yourself!* (*Katte ni shiyagare!!*, 1995–1996) series, and the two *The Revenge* films released in 1997, *A Visit from Fate* and *The Scar That Never Fades*. Ôsugi's screen credits, mainly in supporting roles, are far too numerous to list fully, but include noteworthy appearances for directors including Sabu, **Sai Yôichi**, **Miike Takashi**, **Kitano Takeshi**, **Hiroki Ryûichi**, and **Nakata Hideo**.

ÔTOMO KATSUHIRO (大友克洋, 1954–). Despite the monumental status of his debut feature *Akira* (1988), Ôtomo Katsuhiro hails from outside both the film and, more specifically, the *anime* industry, setting him apart from contemporaries in the field such as Anno Hideaki, **Oshii Mamoru**, and **Studio Ghibli's Miyazaki Hayao**. Establishing his name in the world of *manga* with the serials *Fireball* (1979), *Domu: A Child's Dream* (1980–1983), and *Akira* (1982–1990), Ôtomo first turned to the moving image in 1982 with the live-action *Give Me a Gun Give Me Freedom* (*Jiyû o warera ni*), a 16mm *jishu eiga* that he wrote, produced, and scripted. It was not until 1987 that he made his debut in the medium with which he is most commonly identified, directing one of the three parts that made up the animated compendium *Labyrinth Tales* (*Meikyû monogatari*) before going on to work on a number of other titles, including another *anime* omnibus, *Robot Carnival* (*Robotto kânibaru*, 1987), for which he directed the opening and closing sequences.

After the success of *Akira*, Ôtomo surprisingly returned to live-action with the feature *World Apartment Horror* (*Wârudo apâtomento horâ*, 1991), based on an original *manga* by **Kon Satoshi** that featured the foreign residents of an apartment block fighting back against the *yakuza* landlord eager to evict them. He moved back to animation, writing the scripts for Kitakubo Hiroyuki's *Roujin Z* (*Rôjin Z*, 1991), a satire in which care for the elderly is entrusted to machines; Kawasaki Hirotsume's *Spriggan* (*Supirigan*, 1998), an action-driven work about agents for a clandestine government agency protecting the remnants of Noah's Ark, revealed to be an alien artifact of immense power, from falling into the wrong hands; and Rintarô's *Metropolis* (*Metoroporisu*, 2001), an adaptation of the 1949 *manga* by Tezuka Osamu, inspired by Fritz Lang's 1927 film of the same name, which portrayed a future city populated by humans and robot workers. He also served as the producer on *Memories* (1995), an animated compendium of three of his original stories for which he directed the final segment, *Cannon Fodder*. Much of the decade, however, was spent overseeing the lengthy production of his eagerly anticipated follow-up to *Akira*, *Steamboy* (*Suchîmubôi*, 2004), which celebrated the explosive energy of Victorian England's steam age in a similar fashion to his signature film. He returned to live-action, embellished with CG

special effects, with the fantasy film *Bug Master* (*Mushi-shi*, 2006), based on the *manga* by Urushibara Yuki.

OVA (オリジナル・ビデオ・アニメーション, ORIGINAL VIDEO ANIMATION). Also referred to as OAV (Original Animated Video), OVA refers to *anime* produced for direct-to-video and DVD releases, instead of TV broadcast or theatrical distribution. The market began with **Oshii Mamoru's** *Dallos* (*Darosu*, 1983), a four-episode series made for the company Bandai Visual about miners working on the moon revolting against their employers back on Earth. It has subsequently counted for a significant percentage of the domestic market and of the Japanese animation consumed abroad.

OVA tapes or DVDs typically contain a number of episodes ranging from around 30 minutes each to single feature-length stories. Production budgets for OVA are generally far lower than theatrical animation, while the medium allows for higher levels of violence and sexual explicitness than television. The first entry in the *Cream Lemon* (*Kurîmu remon*) series in 1984 gave rise to the significantly large genre of adult *anime* sometimes referred to as H Anime (short for *hentai*, meaning “perverted”).

Scenarios and characters can be based on original material, like *Key the Metal Idol* (*Kî za metaru aidoru*, Satô Hiroki, 1994–1997, 15 episodes), featuring a robot girl and her scientist “grandfather,” or supplementary episodes to works already popularized through *manga*, theatrical releases, or television. For example, the TV *anime* *The Super Dimension Fortress Macross* (*Chôjikkû yôsai Makurosu*) began in 1982 and initially spawned one theatrical feature and two OVA serials, which were later followed by the four-episode *Macross Plus* (1994–1995), and the five-episode *Macross Zero* (2002–2004), as well as other TV series, films, and *manga* spin-offs. *See also* TOEI COMPANY; V-CINEMA.

OZU YASUJIRÔ (小津安二郎, 1903–1963). Ozu Yasujirô is considered among the world's greatest filmmakers. His archetypal work *Tokyo Story* (*Tôkyô monogatari*, 1953)—about an aging couple who leave their home by the Inland Sea to visit the family of their son, a doctor living in the capital, only to find the younger generation too busy to entertain them—regularly tops critics' all-time Best Ten polls.

During Ozu's 35-year career he elevated his favored genre of the home drama to the realms of high art. His meticulously crafted films, most of which he coscripted with Noda Kôgo, typically unfold sedately in a series of static, flattened tableaux shot from low angles, with characters in medium close-up and positioned at unconventional angles to the camera, resulting in his trademark mismatched eye-line effect, as they deliver their ostensibly banal

yet highly nuanced dialogue without overt displays of emotion. Throughout his career, Ozu strove to eliminate such cinematic devices as fades, dissolves, and camera tracks, with individual scenes broken up by unpeopled “pillow shots” to establish the mood and location.

His idiosyncratic method has earned him the description “the most Japanese of all directors.” While his films topped *Kinema Junpô*’s annual critics list a total of six times, they were not widely circulated overseas at the time, and during his lifetime the director never received the same worldwide recognition as such contemporaries as **Kurosawa Akira** and **Mizoguchi Kenji**. **Shochiku**, the studio where he was based for much of his working life, claimed his films were too culturally specific for non-Japanese audiences, and though *Tokyo Story* was awarded the first Sutherland Trophy for best film at the 1958 London Film Festival, it was not until 1963, the year in which he died of throat cancer on his 60th birthday, that his first retrospective was held at the Berlin Film Festival, thus launching his international reputation.

However, Ozu’s style has also been seen as belonging to the modernist tradition, and his film’s subject matter, subtle human tales about the daily lives of white-collar families, have a universal appeal. Ozu often returned to similar themes throughout his oeuvre: the dissolution of the family and the gulf of understanding between the generations. Devoted parents’ attempts to find a suitable husband for their unmarried daughters was the subject of several of his most iconic works, including *Late Spring* (*Banshun*, 1949); *Early Summer* (*Bakushû*, 1951); his first color feature, *Equinox Flower* (*Higanbana*, 1958); and his final film, *An Autumn Afternoon* (*Sanma no aji*, 1962). The comic *I Was Born, But . . .* (*Umarete wa mita keredomo*, 1932) and *Good Morning* (*Ohayô*, 1959) focused particularly on children, depicting, among other things, how new media technologies impact the lifestyle of a contemporary family. In the earlier title, two brothers learn a lesson about the unfairness of life when they witness their father being publicly humiliated by his boss in a home movie, while in the latter a television set threatens to disrupt the household status quo. Ozu adopted a more serious approach in other films, such as *Early Spring* (*Sôshun*, 1956), which portrayed the breakdown in marital communication between a young commuting salaryman and his wife left tending the home. Ozu often made use of the same performers, reprising their roles from film to film, most famously Ryû Chishû and **Hara Setsuko** in his postwar works.

Though to many Ozu’s films epitomize a certain Japanese aesthetic, in his early years he was much influenced by Hollywood filmmakers, particularly Ernst Lubitsch, Charlie Chaplin, and Harold Lloyd. After joining Shochiku’s Kamata studios in 1923, his debut and only offering in the *jidai-geki* field, *The Sword of Penitence* (*Zange no yaiba*, 1927), despite its bygone setting,

was based on an American film Ozu had read about called *Kick-In* (George Fitzmaurice, 1922). In his early years he made several college comedy dramas, such as his earliest extant work, the ski resort-set *Days of Youth* (*Gaku-sei romansu: Wakaki hi*, 1929) and *I Graduated But . . .* (*Daigaku wa deta keredo*, 1929), the first of his films to be voted best of its year by *Kinema Junpô*. During the early 1930s, he rapidly established a reputation as a master of the *shomin-geki* genre, which Shochiku specialized in, with his ability to mix comedy, drama, and pathos successfully. Key works from the prewar period include *Woman of Tokyo* (*Tôkyô no onna*, 1933), in which a young man finds his marriage plans ruined when it is rumored his sister is working as a barmaid, or possibly worse; the crime thriller *Dragnet Girl* (*Hijôsen no onna*, 1933); and *A Story of Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa monogatari*, 1934), about the internal dynamics of an itinerant theatrical troupe, remade in 1959 with the English release title of *Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa*). His first “talkie” was *The Only Son* (*Hitori musuko*, 1936), a *haha-mono* melodrama.

Ozu only made two films during the war, *Brothers and Sisters of the Toda Family* (*Toda-ke no kyôdai*, 1941) and *There Was a Father* (*Chichi ariki*, 1942), and served in China for one year after he was drafted. Following six months in a British POW camp following Japan’s defeat, he returned in 1946 and made *Record of a Tenement Gentleman* (*Nagaya shinshi roku*, 1947), about a middle-aged widow unwillingly burdened with a stray child who was orphaned during the bombing of Tokyo.

In his postsilent work he developed his signature minimalist style, and his films were emblematic of the “Ôfuna-flavor” melodramas that characterized Shochiku’s output at the time. However, during this period he also made his only three works outside of the studio: *The Munekata Sisters* (*Munekata Shimai*, 1950), for the new **Shinto** company; *Floating Weeds* (*Ukigusa*, 1959), for Daiei; and *Early Autumn* (*Kohayagawa-ke no aki*, 1961), for **Toho**. When Ozu passed away in 1963, he was in the process of making *Radishes and Carrots* (*Daikon to ninjin*), a film that was completed by Shibuya Minoru and released by Shochiku in 1965.

P

PAGE OF MADNESS, A (KURUTTA IPPÊJI, alt. KURUTTA ICHIPÊJI, 狂った一頁, 1926). The 35th film directed by **Kinugasa Teinosuke**, *A Page of Madness* (also known as *A Page Out of Order* or *A Crazy Page*) is among the best known and most widely screened of Japanese silent films worldwide. However, it is considered something of an anomaly within the country's output of the time, adopting an experimental style apparently inspired by a number of avant-garde works from Europe that had been released in Japan, such as Germaine Dulac's *The Smiling Madame Beudet* (*La Souriante Madame Beudet*, 1923) and Abel Gance's *The Wheel* (*La Roue*, 1923) from France, and German expressionist films like *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* (*Das Kabinett des Doktor Caligari*, 1920) and F. W. Murnau's *The Last Laugh* (*Der Letzte Mann*, 1924), although Kinugasa claimed not to have seen any German films when he made it. The director also drew influence from the translated essays on the theory of montage by the Soviet filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein, though Eisenstein's films had been banned from importation into Japan following the passing of the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) in 1925.

With its fast and complex editing rhythms, art deco-inspired backdrops, and disconcerting subject matter, *A Page of Madness* represented a complete break with local cinema traditions. Its story, told in flashback and, unusually for the time, without the aid of either text intertitles, is about a retired sailor (Inoue Masao) who takes a job in a lunatic asylum to look after his mentally ill wife (Nakagawa Yoshie). It has been noted as the first feature-length film anywhere in the world that attempted to convey complex psychological content purely through the use of cinematic devices.

The original script is credited to the novelist **Kawabata Yasunari**, but though it subsequently published as part of the author's collected works, Kinugasa later downplayed the extent of Kawabata's involvement, stating that the story was largely improvised during shooting. Nevertheless, the creative influence of Kawabata and other figures of the literary movement of the 1920s known as the New Sensationalist School (*Shinkankaku-ha*) is significant. Kinugasa was close to the group and had previously adapted *The Sun* (*Nichiren*, 1925) from a short novel by another of its members, Yokomitsu

Riichi. This title, produced by former Nikkatsu director **Makino Shôzô**'s Makino Productions, was a refashioning of Gustave Flaubert's *Salammbo* (1862), containing characters known from Japan's creation myths, and was heavily **censored** by the authorities.

A Page of Madness is also significant as one of Japan's first **independent productions**, produced by Kinugasa through the New Sensationalist Film Association (*Shinkankaku-ha eiga renmei*), founded especially for this purpose. It was shot in **Shochiku**'s temporarily vacant Shimokamo studios in Kyoto on a budget so low that the cast and crew of around 50 people worked without payment and slept in the studio, with the actors helping to create the props and operate the lights. Though it was noted upon its release by several critics as presenting a new approach to cinema as art, *A Page of Madness* had no significant influence on the course of Japanese cinema and remained a one-off experiment for the group, although Kinugasa made *Crossroads* (*Jujirô*) in 1928, a *jidai-geki* more directly inspired by German expressionism. The film was subsequently considered lost following a fire that destroyed Shochiku's Shimokamo studios in 1950, until in 1971 Kinugasa discovered the original negative in a storage shed in his country house. A new print was made, and the film was screened outside of Japan for the first time.

PIA FILM FESTIVAL (PIA FIRUMU FESUTIBARU, ぴあフィルムフェスティバル; PFF). The PIA Film Festival was established in 1977 by the prominent Tokyo listings magazine PIA to promote "The Discovery and Development of New Talents in Film." Originally named the Off Theatre Film Festival and with jury members including **Ôshima Nagisa** and **Terayama Shûji**, PFF was initially supported only by the magazine, receiving no government or industry funding, although it is now run by a joint organization of six companies known as PFF Partners (PIA Corporation, TBS, Tokyo FM, Imagica, Humax Cinema, and Avex Entertainment). Directors who premiered at PFF and have subsequently gone on to successful commercial careers include **Ishii Sôgo**, with *Attack! Hooligans of Hakata* (*Totsugeki! Hakata Gurentai*, 1978); Morita Yoshimitsu, with *Live in Chigasaki* (*Raibu in Chigasaki*, 1978); Nagasaki Shunichi, with *The Summer Yuki Rejected Rock* (*Yuki ga rokku o suteta natsu*, 1978); Iida Jôji, with *Intermission* (Kyukei, 1980); **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, with *Vertigo College* (*Shigarami gakuen*, 1980); and Shiota Akihiko, with *Fa-La-La* (1984). The PFF scholarship was established in 1984 to provide limited funding and distribution for new projects by the most promising newcomers and was awarded in its first year to 17-year-old high-school student Kazama Shiori for her 22-minute short *0×0* (*Zero kak-eru koto no zero*, 1984), allowing her to make the 16mm *Imitation Interior* (1985) the following year (see WOMEN). The scheme was later extended,

with the PFF award winner being invited to submit a new feature script to be produced, financed, and released into theaters by the organization's partners. Films resulting from past PFF scholarships include Hashiguchi Ryôsuken's *A Touch of Fever* (*Hatachi no binetsu*, 1992); Yaguchi Shinobu's *Down the Drain* (*Hadashi no pikunikku*, 1993); Kumakiri Kazuyoshi's *Hole in the Sky* (*Sora no ana*, 2001); Lee Sang-Il's *Border Line* (2002); Oigami Naoko's *Yoshino's Barber Shop* (2003); and Kumasaka Izuru's *ASYL: Park and Love Hotel* (*Pâku ando rabu hoteru*, 2007), which won the Best First Feature award for its director at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2008.

PINK FILM (PINKU EIGA, ピンク映画). The term "pink film" has been used broadly in the West to describe Japanese sex films in general, including **Roman Porno**, the Pinky Violence sexy action–exploitation titles of **Toei**, the erotic films produced by the **Shochiku** subsidiary Tôkatsu Production, and erotic **V-Cinema**. Strictly speaking, it refers to a strain of independently produced softcore pornography that has been in existence since the early 1960s. To this day still filmed and projected using 35mm film stock and circulating on rolling triple bills within specialist networks of adult cinemas, the now-standard, one-hour format punctuated with an average of five or six sex scenes allows a certain degree of flexibility for directors willing to experiment with style and content, while the demands of screen **censorship** in Japan preclude the films from being considered out-and-out straight pornography. Many have reached beyond the genre's target audience, playing in Japanese art-house cinemas and foreign film festivals. As such, pink film must be considered a crucial sector of domestic film production.

The term was first coined by journalist Murai Minoru in 1963, when he playfully advocated a "Pink Ribbon Award" for these new films in place of the Blue Ribbon Award given to mainstream pictures by the popular press. During the industry's formative years, the films were also known as *eroductions* (a contraction of "erotic production"); *sanbyakuman eiga* ("three-million-yen films"), due to their tiny budgets that have remained constant to this day; and more euphemistically, simply as *dokuritsu eiga* ("independent film"). The birth of the genre can be traced back to the release of Kobayashi Satoru's *Flesh Market* (*Nikutai ichiba*, 1962), produced by Ôkura Eiga, a new company founded by Ôkura Mitsugi (1899–1978) after the demise of **Shinto**. After police raided the theater where the film was playing and confiscated all prints, the resulting scandal was enough to cause an explosion of low-budget films of similarly salacious content, with the number of such *eroductions* rising from four in its first year to over 200 by the mid-1960s, or around half the domestic output. Even at the turn of the new millennium, the number of pink films produced remained just under a hundred.

This phenomenon could not have emerged without the breakdown of the monopoly of the major studios in the 1960s, leaving a shortfall in exhibitors' schedules that was filled by new **independent** producers. Early companies that still survive to this day include Ôkura Productions (now known as OP Eiga), Kokuei, and Shintoho (although effectively a different company from that of the same name that operated in the 1950s). The first wave of directors came from less-educated backgrounds than those recruited by the major studios and often hailed from television or PR documentary production companies. Thus in the 1960s, pink cinema adopted a more adversarial stance to mainstream cinema, often containing subversive left-wing political elements in their narratives. Significant directors from this time include Mukai Kan, **Takechi Tetsuji**, Watanabe Mamoru, Yamamoto Shinya, and **Wakamatsu Kôji**.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, several pink film production companies developed a symbiotic relationship with **Nikkatsu**, providing titles to circulate as part of the triple bills playing in the major company's theaters. Several directors active at this time, such as **Hiroki Ryûichi**, Mochizuki Rokurô, Suô Masayuki, and **Takita Yôjirô**, have subsequently forged successful careers in mainstream cinema. A gay market was also recognized in the early 1980s, with Nakamura Genji's *Beautiful Mystery* (*Kyokon densetsu: Utsukushiki nazo*, 1983) the first film released by ENK, a company specializing in this market.

Unlike Roman Porno, the pink film industry managed to survive the crisis in the late 1980s brought about by the popularity of hardcore adult video (AV), and in the early 1990s, a group of directors collectively known as the Four Devils (*shitenno*), comprised of Sano Kazuhiro, Satô Hisayasu, Satô Toshiki, and Zeze Takahisa, emerged to challenge the assumptions of the genre with a blend of formal experimentation, political content, and avant-garde narratives. Their works played widely at international film festivals, and they have been succeeded by a younger generation with their own distinctively personal style, most notably Tajiri Yûji and Meike Mitsuru. Meike's satire of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, *The Glamorous Life of Sachiko Hanai* (*Hanai Sachiko karei na shôgai*, 2004), was distributed theatrically in America.

PROLETARIAN FILM LEAGUE OF JAPAN (NIHON PUORETARIA EIGA DÔMEI, 日本プロレタリア映画同盟; PROKINO, プロキノ). The Proletarian Film League of Japan, commonly referred to as Prokino, was a left-wing filmmaking collective founded on 2 February 1929 that emerged from a broader culture of proletarian arts movements during the mid-1920s in the associated fields of theater, literature, and music. It was the first organization of its kind anywhere in the world, producing and screening **documentaries** and newsreels of labor union activities, demonstrations, strikes, May Day celebrations, and films about the harsh lives of workers in

industries such as farming and mining. Its members also produced a number of experimental features with a strong Marxist orientation and even several shadow (*kage-e*) animations. The films were shot using 9.5mm or 16mm film gauges on equipment that had recently been made available to amateur filmmakers (albeit wealthy ones) and were screened across the country using mobile projection equipment, at political meetings, public halls, and factories. Prokino also published a number of magazines promoting its endeavors and containing articles about the revolutionary possibilities of film.

Central figures in its establishment were Sasa Genjû (1900–1959), a student of French literature at Tokyo University and a member of the Proletarian Theater troupe of the Proletarian Art Federation of Japan (*Nihon Puroreteria Geijutsu Renmei*, or *Progei*); the film critic **Iwasaki Akira**; and the pioneering woman filmmaker, **Atsugi Taka**, who joined following the group's first public meeting, the Proletarian Film Night, held at the Yomiuri Hall in Tokyo on 31 May 1930. The organization disbanded in 1934, due to heavier pressure from the police, who were increasing their vigilance on the activities of "subversive" groups, as specified within the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) of 1925. A number of prominent communists were arrested in 1933, including the novelist Kobayashi Takiji (1903–1933), who died in police custody. However, several former Prokino members subsequently played a significant role in the commercial film industry.

Prokino's practice of producing and screening its works directly and **independently** of established systems of commercial exhibition had a profound influence on documentary filmmakers such as **Ogawa Shinsuke** and current organizations such as Video Act (see *JISHU EIGA*).

PURE FILM MOVEMENT (JUN EIGAGEKI UNDÔ, 純映画劇運動).

The Pure Film Movement was a reformist drive that emerged circa 1917, led by a number of prominent intellectuals from the world of literature, theater, and film, who aimed at modernizing Japanese cinema and divorcing it from its stage antecedents to transform it into a pure art form in its own right.

The movement's key proponents include the novelist **Tanizaki Junichirô**; the early film theorist Kaeriyama Norimasa (1893–1964); and Osanai Kaoru (1881–1928), a pioneering playwright, performer, and theatrical director of *shingeki* ("New Drama," or Western-style theater), who had introduced Stanislavski's acting techniques to Japan. Together they saw the long-take, long-shot static camera of the *jidai-geki* and *Shinpa* adaptations that comprised early Japanese cinema, with their exaggerated "theatrical" acting and the action framed as if being viewed by a spectator watching a stage performance, as primitive compared with the style that was evolving in Europe and Hollywood. They watched mainly foreign films, spurning the domestic product

(typified by films starring **Onoe Matsunosuke**), and advocated a creative exploitation of those devices unique to cinema, such as the spatial and temporal manipulations made possible through camera and editing, close-ups, crosscutting, continuity editing, and flashbacks, and a rejection of elements specific to Japanese cinema, such as the presence of the *benshi* narrators and the practice of using male *oyama* rather than female performers.

The movement is seen as marking the beginning of film's elevation from its status as *misemono* (sideshow attractions) to a general awareness of its potential as a distinct art form for middle-class consumption, and followed on from the emergence of a number of film journals that began publication in the 1910s, including *Katsudô shashinkai* and *Kinema Record* (founded by Kaeriyama in 1913, originally as *Film Record*). Such journals provided a forum for reformers to discuss their ideas and brought about a shift in terminology, with the word *eiga* ("reflecting picture") coming to replace the old term *katsudô shashin* ("moving pictures"), as well as a new emphasis on the role of the director rather than the performer or the *benshi*. Key treatises by the reformers include Tanizaki's essay "The Present and Future of Moving Pictures" (*Katsudô shashin no genzai to shôrai*), which first appeared in the literary journal *Shinshôsetsu* (*New Novel*), and Japan's first technical handbook for cinema, *The Production and Photography of Moving Pictures* (*Katsudô shashingeki no sôzaku to satsuei hô*), written by Kaeriyama, both of which were published in 1917.

The reformers were active in putting their ideas into practice. In 1918, Kaeriyama joined the Natural Color Moving Picture Company (*Tennenshoku Katsudô Shashin Kabushikigaisha*, or Tenkatsu), where he directed *The Girl in the Mountain* (*Shinzan no otome*) and *The Glory of Life* (*Sei no kagayaki*), both released in 1919 and featuring the first billed appearance of a female performer in the form of Hanayagi Harumi. His third film, *The Girl in His Dream* (*Genei no onna*, 1920), was the first to be critically regarded as equal to Western films, although by 1924 Kaeriyama had left the world of commercial filmmaking.

Osanai was recruited by **Shochiku** to oversee its new acting school and received an equal billing with director Murata Minoru on *Souls on the Road* (*Rojô no reikon*, 1921), the only Pure Film title still in existence. In April 1920, Tanizaki was taken on as a literary consultant by Taikatsu (*Taishô katsudô eiga*), a company founded in Yokohama in 1920 by Thomas Kurihara (born Kurihara Kisaburô, 1885–1926), an actor who had appeared in Thomas Ince's productions in Hollywood, where he had also worked in a technical capacity. The company's first production was the contemporary comedy *Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu*, 1920), directed by Kurihara from a script by Tanizaki. For a few years, Taikatsu served as an importer of foreign films,

as well as producing a number of further collaborations between Kurihara and Tanizaki, none of which survive. Sadly, its relatively limited capital and small network of between 20 and 30 theaters meant that its expensive productions could not compete against the output of other new, larger rivals such as Shochiku, into which the company was absorbed in October 1922. Kurihara continued to direct **documentary** films for several years, and died in September 1926.

That the main figures involved in the Pure Film Movement had such a short career in film can be partly attributed to the fact that their roots lay outside the industry. Resistance to the reformist movement also stemmed from the powerful position held by the *benshi* and *oyama*, especially in **Nikkatsu**, which dominated production and exhibition in the 1910s. Nevertheless, Nikkatsu itself made some efforts to modernize its products, recruiting a young drama student, Tanaka Eizô, in 1917, who made progressive *Shinpa* films featuring performances inspired by Western screen-acting techniques, including *A Father's Tears* (*Chichi no namida*, 1918); *The Living Corpse* (*Ikeru shikabane*, 1918), adapted from a Leo Tolstoy story; and *The Kyoya Collar Shop* (*Kyôya eriten*, 1922), the last major production to use *oyama* instead of actresses. With the establishment of Shochiku as a major rival to Nikkatsu, by the time of the Great Kantô Earthquake of 1923, many of the Pure Film Movement's suggestions to modernize the film industry were already in effect. *See also* HAYAKAWA SESSUE.

R

RASHOMON (RASHÔMON, 羅生門, 1950). *Rashomon* (1950) is the film that first introduced the name of the director **Kurosawa Akira** to overseas audiences, and its receipt of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival in 1951 is widely held as marking the beginning of a vastly increased Western interest in Japanese cinema (although it is worth noting that Tasaka Tomotaka's **war** film *Five Scouts* [*Gonin no sekkôhei*] had been awarded the Ministry for Popular Culture cup at the same festival in 1938).

Kurosawa's film was produced by **Daiei** after his regular studio **Toho** rejected the project, and its overseas success was largely due to the concerted efforts of the company's president, Nagata Masai, to promote Japanese cinema internationally. Kurosawa's win resulted in the studio's productions of **Kinugasa Teinosuke's** *Gate of Hell* (*Jigokumon*, 1953) and **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953) and *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayū*, 1954) also entering into European festival competitions in the years immediately following, with the other major studios soon following Daiei's lead.

The film, set during the Heian period, combined two short stories by the Taishō-era novelist Akutagawa Ryūnosuke (1892–1927): *Rashomon* (*Rashōmon*, 1914) and *In a Grove* (*Yabu no naka*, 1922). It depicted the rape of a samurai's wife (**Kyō Machiko**) and the murder of her husband (Mori Masayuki) in a secluded wood by a bandit notorious in the area (**Mifune Toshirō**), as recounted by the principal agents themselves, including the samurai, who is summoned by a medium to give his evidence from beyond the grave, and a woodcutter (Shimura Takashi) who witnessed the crime. The script by Hashimoto Shinobu (see TOHO COMPANY), a collaborator on many of Kurosawa's best-known works, including *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), was revolutionary in introducing narrative uncertainty by way of flashbacks depicting the testimonies of the four unreliable narrators, who may or may not be telling the truth, and has proven highly influential in numerous works produced all over the world. Also of note is the atmospheric cinematography of **Miyagawa Kazuo**, particularly in the scenes shot at the *Rashomon* gate, under which the accounts of the crime unfold. The film was

produced by Minoura Jingo, and its production planner was Motogi Sôjiro, a powerful producer at Toho after the war who worked with Kurosawa in many of his films, from *Those Who Create Tomorrow* (*Asu o tsukuru hitobito*, codirected with Sekigawa Hideo and Yamamoto Kajirô, 1946) onward, until in 1962 he entered the at-the-time highly lucrative world of the **pink film**, in which he worked as both a producer and director.

Akutagawa's tale has subsequently been filmed on several occasions, with or without reference to Kurosawa's film, including Satô Hisayasu's version for the **V-Cinema** market, *In the Thicket* (*Yabu no naka*, 1996); Saegusa Kenki's *Misty* (1997), starring the Taiwan-born pop idol and actor Kaneshiro Takeshi; and Nakano Hiroyuki's *Tajomaru* (2009), which takes its title from the name of the bandit played by Mifune. *See also* JIDAI-GEKI.

RICHIE, DONALD (1924–). Born in Lima, Ohio, but a long-term resident of Tokyo since he arrived as part of the U.S. Occupation force in 1947, Donald Richie has been a crucial figure in the introduction of Japanese cinema to overseas audiences. His book *The Japanese Film: Art and Industry* (1959), cowritten with Joseph L. Anderson, was the first major study of Japanese cinema. Alongside his many books and articles on cinema, which include studies of the directors **Kurosawa Akira** and **Ozu Yasujirô**, he has written extensively on Japanese culture, published several novels, curated film seasons across the world, and worked as Curator of Film at the Museum of Modern Art in New York from 1969 to 1972. His travel book *The Inland Sea*, first published in 1971, was filmed as a **documentary** by Lucille Carra and Brian Cotnoir in 1991; Richie himself narrated it. He has also directed a number of short experimental works in Japan, including *Wargames* (*Sensô gokko*, 1962), *Atami Blues* (*Atami burûsu*, 1962), *Boy with Cat* (*Neko to shônen*, 1967), *Five Philosophical Fables* (*Itsutsu no tetsugakuteki dôwa*, 1967), and *Cybele* (*Shibêru*, 1968). *See also* INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION.

RING (RINGU, リング, 1998). Directed by **Nakata Hideo** from the successful novel of the same name by Suzuki Kôji, *Ring* was almost single-handedly responsible for the boom in popularity in **J-Horror**, both domestically and internationally. The film begins with TV news reporter Asakawa Reiko (Matsushima Nanako) investigating the mysterious deaths of two teenage girls, one of whom is her niece, which are connected to an urban myth about a cursed videotape. After tracing the victims' movements to a rented holiday cottage on the Izu peninsula, the reporter discovers a tape containing a sequence of horrific images and after watching it, receives an anonymous phone call. Realizing she has only one week to live, Reiko contacts her ex-husband Ryûji, played by Sanada Harayuki, and the two trace the origins of the tape



Donald Richie's *Wargames* (*Sensô gokko*, 1962). © Image Forum.

to the island of Ôshima, where they learn about a child psychic, Yamamura Sadako, who died in violent circumstances 30 years previously and is now exacting her revenge.

Suzuki Kôji's original novel, a curious mixture of pseudoscience and the supernatural, was published in Japan in 1991. It was first adapted as a TV movie, *Ring: The Complete Edition* (*Ringu kanzenban*), directed by Takagawa Chisui for Fuji Television in 1995 and later released to video, with a 12-episode series *Ring: The Final Chapter* (*Ringu: Saishûshô*) following in 1999, after the success of Nakata's theatrical version. Nakata's film, produced by Ichise Takashige, Sentô Takenori, and Kawai Shinya for Asmik Ace Entertainment on a budget equivalent to \$1.2 million, was released by **Toho** on 31 January 1998 on a double bill with Iida Jôji's *Rasen*, adapted from Suzuki's second novel in the series, published in 1995. While Iida's film, which was poorly received, remained truer to Suzuki's conception in emphasizing the scientific rather than the supernatural aspects of the story, Nakata and screenwriter Takahashi Hiroshi considerably deviated from the source material, citing the Western horror films *The Haunting* (Robert Wise, 1963), *Poltergeist* (Tobe Hooper, 1982), and *Videodrome* (David Cronenberg, 1983) as influences and reconceptualizing Sadako as a vengeful female ghost (*onryô*) in the vein of those in traditional Japanese ghost stories such as those filmed by **Nakagawa Nobuo**. Nakata also utilized elements from his earlier

work, notably *Ghost Actress* (*Joyûrei*, 1996) and the *Spirit Video* (*Rei bideo*) episode from the 1997 season of the *Haunted School* television series, in creating the image sequence that appears on the cursed videotape. The film became the most profitable domestic horror film of all time in Japan and established many of the motifs common to J-Horror.

As Suzuki's follow-up to his original book had already been filmed by Iida, for *Ring 2* (*Ringu 2*, 1999) Nakata and Takahashi created a new story, unconnected to the novels, which followed Sanada's lover in the original film, Takano Mai (played by Nakatani Miki) as she tries to escape Sadako's curse. In the same year a Korean remake was produced, *Ring Virus* (1999), directed by Kim Dong-bin, which was the first-ever joint production between South Korea and Japan. For the next film in the Japanese series, *Ring 0: Birthday* (*Ringu 0: Bâsudei*, 2000), a prequel to the original *Ring* adapted from a short story by Suzuki that featured Sadako as a teenage member of an acting troupe, Nakata was replaced by Tsuruta Norio as director. Following its disappointing reception at the box office, Asmik Ace decided to bring an end to the initial cycle. The remake rights to the original were sold to the U.S. studio DreamWorks, resulting in a new version in 2003 directed by Gore Verbinski, entitled *The Ring*, and Nakata made his Hollywood debut with this film's sequel, *The Ring Two* (2005).

ROMAN PORNO (ROMAN PORUNO, ロマンポルノ). Often said to be an abbreviation of "romantic pornography," the name of this brand of high-class erotic program pictures produced by **Nikkatsu** is actually derived from the French term *roman pornographique* ("pornographic novel"), to lend it more literary associations as opposed to the independently produced **pink film**. The films were released through Nikkatsu's own theater chain on a bimonthly basis, with one pink film making up the lower part of the triple bill. Beginning with *Castle Orgies* (*Irogoyomi ôoku hiwa*, Hayashi Isao) and *Apartment Wife: Afternoon Affair* (*Danchi-zuma: Hirusagari no jôji*, Nishimura Shôgorô), around 850 such softcore sex films were released by Nikkatsu between November 1971 and May 1988.

Roman Porno films were typically produced on budgets of ¥7.5 million and made use of the company's production facilities and technical staff. With many of the in-house directors and performers leaving when the company first committed itself to adult pictures, Roman Porno allowed a new generation of former assistant directors to make their debuts. The first generation of filmmakers to make their mark in the new line include Konuma Masaru, Kumashiro Tatsumi, Sone Chûsei, and Tanaka Noboru, whose films were often critical as well as commercial successes. The appeal of Roman Porno also rested heavily on Nikkatsu's new wave of contracted starlets, such as Miyashita Junko, Ogawa Setsuko, Shirakawa Kazuko, and Tani Naomi.

More than anything, Roman Porno was revolutionary in packaging eroticism and adult subject matter for a wider audience, although this was not without its setbacks. In 1972, police raided Nikkatsu theaters and seized copies of *Love Hunter* (*Koi no karyûdo: Rabu hantâ*). Several staff members and the film's director, Yamaguchi Seiichirô, were taken to court on public obscenity charges. The Nikkatsu Roman Porno trial ran from 1975 to 1980, before critical support in the film press for the artistic merits of the genre resulted in a "not guilty" verdict (see CENSORSHIP). Nevertheless, as the years progressed, Roman Porno was forced into greater excesses to maintain its audiences, with budgets becoming smaller and more films commissioned from outside production companies to fill theater schedules, until the line came to an end in 1988 with the release of *Bed Partner* (*Beddo pâtona*, Gotô Daisuke) and *The Love Game Isn't Over* (*Rabu gêmu wa owaranai*, Kanazawa Katsuji).

During its latter years, Roman Porno fostered a new generation of directors who subsequently went on to become notable figures in mainstream filmmaking, including Ikeda Toshiharu, Ishii Takashi, Kaneko Shûsuke, Nakahara Shun, **Nakata Hideo**, Negishi Kichitarô, **Sai Yôichi**, and Sômai Shinji. In 2010, Nikkatsu attempted to resurrect the glory days of the genre with the release of two new digitally shot titles: Nakahara's remake of the first Roman Porno, *Apartment Wife: Afternoon Affair*, and newcomer Masumoto Shôichirô's *From the Back, from the Front* (*Ushiro kara mae kara*).

S

SAI YÔICHI (崔洋一, 1949–). Sai Yôichi is Japan's first and most significant *zainichi* filmmaker to work in the mainstream industry, and though he has been commercially successful in such diverse genres as the thriller, comedy, and **animal movie**, a good number of the key titles in his oeuvre focus on issues of race and identity, particularly that of Korean residents in Japan. His first breakthrough hit, *All Under the Moon* (*Tsuki wa dotchi ni dete iru*, 1993), a romantic comedy about a *zainichi* taxi driver and his love affair with a Filipino barmaid, sheds light on the often unacknowledged racial diversity of Tokyo, while *Blood and Bones* (*Chi to hone*, 2004), like the earlier film based on a novel by Yan Sogiru (Yang Seok-il), is a bleak and violent epic about the cruel and domineering patriarch of a *zainichi* family, played by **Kitano Takeshi**, set over the course of the six decades following his arrival in Osaka from Korea in 1920. In 2007, Sai made the violent revenge thriller *Soo: Revenge for a Twisted Fate* (also known as *Art of Revenge*) in South Korea, under his Korean birth name Choi Yang-il.

Originally entering the industry as a lighting assistant, after working as an assistant director on the independent **documentary** *Indictment: Report of Government Crimes Against Korean Residents in Japan* (1974) and acting as a producer for *Bastard on the Border: The Illusion of a Mixed Race Republic* (*Maboroshi no konminzoku kyôwakoku*, 1976), about racial minorities in the United States, Sai was employed as an assistant director by **Ôshima Nagisa** for the production of *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korîda*, 1976). Sai later appeared as an actor alongside Kitano in Ôshima's final film, *Gohatto* (1999).

Sai made his directorial debut in 1981 with episodes of NTV's television weekly cop series *Pro-Hunter* (*Purohantâ*), and theatrically with two thrillers released a few weeks apart in 1983: *The Mosquito on the Tenth Floor* (*Jukkai no mosukîto*), cowritten with the film's star and founder of the progressive rock group Flower Travellin' Band, Uchida Yûya, and distributed by the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG), and *Sexual Crime* (*Seiteki hanzai*), released as part of Nikkatsu's **Roman Porno** line. He made a further five films throughout the 1980s, with several of these, such as *The Woman in the Black Dress* (*Kuroi doresu no onna*, 1987), being produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**.

Sai achieved a major critical and commercial success with *All Under the Moon* (1993). His other noteworthy works include the police procedural movie *MARKS* (*Mâkusû no yama*, 1995); the comedy–thriller *Dog Race* (*Inu hashiru*, 1998), in which a hard-boiled police detective pits his wits against a Korean gangster (played by **Ôsugi Ren**) and his Chinese moll; and *Doing Time* (*Keimusho no naka*, 2002), based on Hanawa Kazuichi’s semiautobiographical *manga* about prison life. He scored a major commercial hit across Asia in 2004 with *Quill* (*Kuîru*, 2004), about the training of a guide dog. That same year he became the president of the Directors Guild of Japan (*Nihon Eiga Kantoku Kyôkai*).

SANYÛTEI ENCHÔ (三遊亭円朝, also 三遊亭圓朝, 1839–1900). A writer and *rakugo* performer of the late Edo, early Meiji periods, Sanyûtei Enchô is best known for his contribution to the oral tradition of supernatural storytelling known as *kaidan*, the basis of many films in the **horror** genre. He adapted a number of folk legends and Kabuki plays as *kaidan-banashi* performances, which were traditionally told on summer evenings to chill the blood and enhanced with sound and lighting effects using musical instruments and candles. (To this day, many Japanese horror films are released around the Obon festival in mid-July, held in honor of deceased ancestors.)

Enchô’s most frequently filmed stories include *The Ghost of Kasane Swamp* (*Shinkei Kasanegafuchi*), about a blind masseur killed by a nobleman after he demands repayment of a loan, who then returns to exact revenge from the swamp where his body has been disposed of; *Tales of the Peony Lantern* (*Kaidan botan dôrô*), in which a young student falls in love with a beautiful woman only to discover she is a ghost; and *The Mother Tree* (*Chibusa no enoki*, also known as *Ghost Story of the Breast-Nettle-Tree*). The first story was filmed twice by the company Teikine under the title *Kasanegafuchi*, by Nagao Shiroku in 1924 and Yamashita Shûichi in 1928, with other versions including Mizoguchi Kenji’s *Passion of a Woman Teacher* (*Kyôren no onna shishô*, 1926), one of the first Japanese films to play in Europe; Futagawa Buntarô’s *Kaidan Kasanegafuchi* (1930) for Makino Productions (see MAKINO SHÔZÔ); Mokutô Shigeru’s *Ghost Story Passion of a Woman Teacher* (*Kaidan kyôren no onna shishô*, 1939); **Nakagawa Nobuo**’s *The Ghost of Kasane* (*Kaidan kasanegafuchi*, 1957); Yasuda Kimiyoshi’s *The Masseur’s Curse* (*Kaidan kasanegafuchi*, 1970); and **Nakata Hideo**’s first period horror film, *Kaidan* (2007). There were numerous films of *Tales of the Peony Lantern* in the prewar period, including an anonymously credited version released by the **Yoshizawa Company** in 1910, and a 1914 version by Makino Shôzô starring **Onoe Matsunosuke**, with later titles including **Yamamoto Satsuo**’s *The Bride of Hades* (*Botan dôrô*, 1968) and *Immortal*

Love (*Seidan botan dôrô*, 1972), a **Roman Porno** version directed by Sone Chûsei. A Shintoho production of *The Mother Tree*, directed by Kadono Gorô in 1958, remains the most widely seen version of the last story.

SEVEN SAMURAI (SHICHININ NO SAMURAI, 七人の侍, 1954). *Seven Samurai*, directed by **Kurosawa Akira** from a script by Hashimoto Shinobu (see *RASHOMON*; TOHO COMPANY), is arguably the most famous and influential film to come from Japan, effectively introducing the samurai genre to the West. It shared the Silver Lion Award at the 1954 Venice Film Festival with **Mizoguchi Kenji**'s *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayū*, 1954) and has regularly appeared in international critics' top ten lists of best films of all time, with **Kinema Junpô** voting it the best Japanese film ever in a 1999 poll to celebrate the magazine's 80th anniversary.

Set at the end of the 16th century, during the Warring States period (*Sengoku jidai*), *Seven Samurai* is an epic action-adventure that follows a group of seven *rônin* who are hired as mercenaries to protect a small village of farmers from attacks by a group of bandits who return annually to steal their crops. It depicts the recruitment of the warriors, their training of the farmers, and their attempts at fortifying the village for the climactic attack. The film features Kurosawa's regular actors: Takashi Shimura as the group's leader Shimada Kanbei, and **Mifune Toshirô** as Kikuchiyo, the seventh mercenary, who is not officially of samurai caste, though he pretends to be.

At 207 minutes (it was edited to a 160-minute version for its international release), *Seven Samura* was not only Kurosawa's longest film to date (his 1951 film of Dostoyevsky's *The Idiot* [*Hakuchi*], though intended for release in two parts totaling 265 minutes, was cut to 166 minutes by the studio **Shochiku**, with the original now considered lost), but at the time also the longest of the postwar era. As such it provided a watershed moment in Japanese cinema in terms of its scale and its technique, with its action sequences shot using multiple-camera setups and its atmospheric use of lighting and shot composition.

Several American critics have posited that *Seven Samurai* introduced a new plot template to the action film genre, in which a team of disparate characters are hired to undertake a certain mission. The film was officially remade as the Hollywood western *The Magnificent Seven* by John Sturges in 1960 and provided an archetype for numerous international productions, including the *The Guns of Navarone* (J. Lee Thompson, 1961), *The Dirty Dozen* (Robert Aldrich, 1967), the Bollywood film *Sholay* (Ramesh Sippy, 1975), *Star Wars* (George Lucas, 1977), and *Battle Beyond the Stars* (Jimmy T. Murakami, 1980). In 2004, the 26-episode animated TV series *Samurai 7* (*Samurai Seibun*), directed by Takizawa Toshifumi, was broadcast on the specialist

anime satellite television network Animax, with characters based on those in Kurosawa's film.

SHIMIZU HIROSHI (清水宏, 1903–1966). Shimizu Hiroshi was born in Shizuoka Prefecture on 28 March 1903 and died of a heart attack in Kyoto on 23 June 1966, his life running almost concurrent with that of **Ozu Yasujirō**, with whom he started at **Shochiku**'s Kamata studios as an assistant director in 1922 after dropping out of Hokkaido University. The two remained close friends throughout their lives, and Shimizu was originally slated to direct Ozu's *I Graduated But . . .* (*Daigaku wa deta keredo*, 1929), for which he wrote the script.

Shimizu made his directing debut with *Beyond the Mountain Pass* (*Tôge no kanata*, 1924) and went on to direct 163 films, though like his contemporaries, most of his early works are considered lost, and less than a third of his complete oeuvre remains. His earliest film still extant, *Parent* (*Oya*, 1929), was his 51st as a director. Most of his early films fell within the *shomin-geki* genre, with popular college romances and youth movies such as the five-film series *The Boss's Son Goes to College* (*Daigaku no wakadanna*, 1933–1935), starring Fujii Mitsugu. He also made more substantial works, including the two-part *Seven Seas* (*Nanatsu no umi*, 1931–1932) and *Japanese Girls at the Harbour* (*Minato no Nihon musume*, 1933). In these films and others, Shimizu depicted the tension between a new internationalizing Japan and its old traditions, making use of the cosmopolitan port city of Yokohama as a location and introducing foreign characters, with the latter title in particular presenting a complex vision of race and nationality by featuring two mixed-race characters. His later talkie *Forget Love for Now* (*Koi mo wasurete*, 1937) features the son of a hostess working in a foreign bar in Yokohama who befriends a group of Chinese children after being shunned by his classmates due to his mother's profession.

As the 1930s progressed, Shimizu increasingly took his stories out of city settings to the remoter parts of Japan. His first talkie, *The Lady Who Wept in Spring* (*Nakinureta haru no onna yo*, 1932), was about a group of miners posted to a remote town in Hokkaido and their relationships with the women who frequent the inn where they are lodging. The archetypal Shimizu film features transitory characters roaming freely across expansive landscapes, through open fields and along winding forest paths, assembling in transitory locations like traveling inns and hot springs resorts, as in *The Masseurs and a Woman* (*Anma to onna*, 1938) and *Ornamental Hairpin* (*Kanzashi*, 1941), and starting up chance conversations while riding with each other in buses or horse-drawn carts. *Mr. Thank You* (*Arigatō-san*, 1936), based on a short story by **Kawabata Yasunari**, was set entirely on a bus traveling from Izu to

Tokyo. With the camera mounted on the front of the bus for long sequences, it featured the visual trope of continuous movement into the depth of the screen that would become increasingly synonymous with Shimizu's style.

Shimizu's combination of whimsical humor and heart-tugging melodrama proved immensely popular with audiences, especially his refreshingly naturalistic portrayals of children in films like *Children in the Wind* (*Kaze no naka no kodomo*, 1937), which played at the Venice Film Festival in 1938 and portrayed two young brothers sent to spend their summer holidays with their uncle in the countryside after their father is arrested on suspicion of embezzlement, and the two-part *Four Seasons of Children* (*Kodomo no shiki*, 1939). Such tactics might have been a nostalgic reaction against the realities of wartime Japan. His "national policy" films (*kokusaku eiga*), shot in Japan's overseas colonies, seemed particularly evasive. The now-lost *Friends* (*Tomodachi*, 1940), filmed in Korea, depicted life in a school containing a mixture of Japanese and Korean children. *Sayon's Bell* (*Sayon no kane*, 1943) was based on a true story of how an indigenous Taiwanese girl named Sayon (**Yamaguchi Yoshiko**) drowned in a mountain stream in 1938 while carrying the possessions of a Japanese policeman, and a bell inscribed with her name was erected in her home area, but the film mainly focused on picturesque shots of the Taiwanese landscape and a backstory about the village children raising a wild boar.

At the end of the war Shimizu was ousted from Shochiku, with a section of the omnibus film *Victory Song* (*Hisshôka*, 1945) being his last work for the company. In 1948, he made *Children of the Beehive* (*Hachi no su no kodomotachi*), produced outside of the studio system through his own company, Hachi No Su Eiga ("Beehive Films") (see INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION). It depicted a nameless soldier just repatriated after the war leading a group of war orphans on foot across Japan to the orphanage where he himself grew up, and was based on Shimizu's own experiences having taken a group of parentless children into his own home after the war.

Shimizu directed a further 23 films, distributed by the companies Shintoho and Daiei, with titles including *A Mother's Love* (*Bojô*, 1950), an example of the *haha-mono* genre in which a poverty-stricken war widow attempts to find new homes for her three children, and *The Shiinomi School* (*Shiinomi gakuen*, 1955), about a couple who found a school for children suffering from polio. His final film was *Image of Mother* (*Haha no omokage*, 1959).

SHINDÔ KANETO (新藤兼人, 1912–). Shindô Kaneto is a respected screenwriter and an **independent** director especially noted for the strong left-wing convictions found in his work. Born Hiroshima in 1912, he started his career at Shinkô Kinema's Tokyo studios, which he entered in 1935



Shimizu Hiroshi's first independent production, *Children of the Beehive* (*Hachi no su no kodomotachi*, 1948).

as a set designer. He worked on a number of films in this capacity, most significantly **Mizoguchi Kenji**'s two-part *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Genroku Chûshingura*, 1941–1942), while at the same time writing scenarios, receiving his first scripting credit for Ochiai Yoshihito's *Women Advance South* (*Nanshin josei*, 1940).

Shindô's reputation as a screenwriter grew after moving to **Shochiku** after the war. He worked with **Ozu Yasujirô**'s collaborator Noda Kôgo on Mizoguchi's first postwar feature, *The Victory of Women* (*Josei no shôri*, 1946), and also adapted Noda's novel *My Love Has Been Burning* (*Waga koi wa moenu*, 1949) for Mizoguchi with the director's regular scriptwriter Yoda Yoshikata. He also wrote scenarios for other directors at Shochiku at the time, including **Kinoshita Keisuke**, Nakamura Noboru, and, most important, Yoshimura Kôsaburô, with whom he left the studio in 1950 to found the independent production company Kindai Eiga Kyôkai (literally, the Society of Modern Cinema). Their first collaboration, *Beyond the Battlefield* (*Senka no hate*, 1950), was coproduced by **Daiei**. Daiei also produced Shindô's first film as a director, *Story of a Beloved Wife* (*Aisai monogatari*), which was voted 10th in **Kinema Junpô**'s Best Ten of 1951. Shindô later married Otowa Nobuko, the lead actress of both his debut and his next film for the company,

Avalanche (*Nadare*, 1952). Otawa was to appear in much of his subsequent work until her death in 1994.

While continuing to write numerous scenarios for major companies such as Daiei and **Nikkatsu**, Shindô soon carved out a niche for himself as one of the foremost independent directors of the 1950s and 1960s, producing as well as scripting his own works. In his first film produced through Kindai Eiga Kyôkai, *Children of Hiroshima* (*Genbaku no ko*, 1952), he used the city of his birth as inspiration for a fictional narrative based on a series of short stories written by young survivors of the **atomic bombing**. Made shortly after the departure of the Occupation forces, the film competed at Cannes in 1953, marking the beginning of the director's international reputation. Shindô also used the city in his later films *Mother* (*Haha*, 1963) and *Sakuratai 8.6* (*Sakura-tai chiru*, 1988). *Naked Island* (*Hadaka no shima*, 1960), a dialogue-free depiction of a family living at near subsistence level on an arid island, made in a semidocumentary style similar to Robert Flaherty's *Man of Aran* (1934), won the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival in 1961.

His two supernatural tales *Onibaba* (1964) and *Kuroneko* (*Yabu no naka no kuroneko*, 1968) were widely circulated abroad. The former, set during the Warring States period of the late 16th century, portrayed a peasant woman and her daughter-in-law, who make their living by robbing passing samurai of their weaponry and armor, until the mother becomes the victim of a cursed mask. It was noted for its atmospheric marshland settings and overt nudity (see **HORROR**).

Though he maintained a steady filmmaking output throughout the next few decades, Shindô's subsequent work is not as well known overseas. Notable later films include the two **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG) coproductions *Sanka: Okoto and Sasuke* (1972), based on a story by **Tanizaki Junichirô**, and a version of Natsume Soseki's *Kokoro* (1973); the **documentary** *Kenji Mizoguchi: The Life of a Film Director* (*Aru eiga kantoku no shôgai: Mizoguchi Kenji no kiroku*, 1975); *The Life of Chikuzan* (*Chikuzan hitori tabi*, 1977), a portrait of a blind *shamisen* player; and *A Tree Without Leaves* (*Rakuyô*, 1986), structured as a series of reminiscences of a family by its last surviving member.

Shindô has directed 44 films during his 70 years in the industry, with *The Owl* (*Fukurô*) released in 2003, *Teacher and Three Children* (*Hana wa Chiredomo*, 2008) directed in the year of his 95th birthday, and *Post Card* (*Ichimai no hagaki*) released in 2010. He has written over 150 screenplays, including **Naruse Mikio's** *The Dancer* (*Maihime*, 1951); **Masumura Yasuzô's** *Manji* (1964) and *Irezumi* (1966); Ikehiko Kazuo's *Zatoichi's Pilgrimage* (*Zatôichi umi o wataru*, 1966); Matsui Hisako's *Yukie* (1998); and **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Under the Flag of the Rising Sun* (*Gunki hatameku moto ni*, 1972) and *The Geisha House* (*Omocha*, 1999). His granddaughter, Shindô Kaze,



Shindô Kaneto's Naked Island (Hadaka no shima, 1960).

was one of the new breed of talented **women** filmmakers to emerge during the late 1990s.

SHINODA MASAHIRO (篠田正浩, 1931–). One of the directors launched by **Shochiku** as part of the company's Nouvelle Vague (*nûberu bâgu*), alongside Yoshida Kijû and **Ôshima Nagisa** (see JAPANESE NEW WAVE), Shinoda directed his first film, *One-Way Ticket to Love* (*Koi no katamichi kippu*), in 1960. It is a story about an aspiring Japanese pop star that takes its title from a song by Neil Sedaka. However, his second film, *Dry Lake* (*Kawaita mizuumi*, 1960), provides a thematically more ambitious marker for the new phase in Japanese cinema, portraying a rebellious undergraduate who breaks away from his fellow members of the national student body *Zengakuren* during the demonstrations surrounding the renewal of the **Anpo Agreement**, harboring dreams of more radical activity. **Takemitsu Tôru** contributed the score, while **Terayama Shûji**'s script marked the first of several collaborations with the director, which also include *My Face Red in the Sunset* (*Yûhi ni akai ore no kao*, 1961) and *Tears on the Lion's Mane* (*Namida o, shishi no tategami ni*, 1962), both of which combined elements of the youth movie (*seishun eiga*) and *yakuza* genres, and the later *Buraikan* (1970), based

loosely on a Kabuki play by Kawatake Mokuami (1816–1893) and portraying numerous characters during the period of the Tenpô uprisings of 1837 in a distinctive, modernist style.

Unlike many of his contemporaries of the New Wave, Shinoda remained within the studio system until his 12th film, *Samurai Spy* (*Ibun Sarutobi Sasuke*, 1965). His work for Shochiku includes *Pale Flower* (*Kawaita hana*, 1964), a *yakuza* film made in the style of American *noir*; *Assassination* (*Ansatsu*, 1964), a *bakumatsu-mono* based on the assassination of Ii Naosuke (1815–1860), the high-ranking official responsible for the opening of Japan's ports to trade with America; and an adaptation of **Kawabata Yasunari's** *Beauty and Sadness* (*Utsukushisa to kanashimi to*, 1965), a contemporary story about a novelist undergoing a midlife crisis who becomes emotionally entangled once more with his former mistress and her lesbian lover.

Rather than confronting long-held Japanese traditions or beliefs from a strongly held political position, in general Shinoda's analytical approach deconstructed them and laid them bare for analysis, often by way of famous historical events and characters. His films include *Punishment Island* (*Shokei no shima*, 1966), adapted by **Ishihara Shintarô** from Takeda Taijun's novel about a **wartime** juvenile detention center on a remote island; *Double Suicide* (*Shinjû-ten Amijima*, 1969), an **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG) production based on the oft-filmed Bunraku play about doomed love by Chikamatsu Monzaemon, which uses the Brechtian device of black-clad puppeteers appearing behind the human actors to steer their fates; *Silence* (*Chinmoku*, 1971), an adaptation of Endô Shûsaku's novel about persecuted Jesuit missionaries in 17th-century Japan; *Himiko* (1974), also produced by ATG, based on the mythical shaman queen of the third century; *Demon Pond* (*Yashagaike*, 1979), a supernatural tale adapted from a story by Izumi Kyôka (see **HORROR**); *MacArthur's Children* (*Setouchi shônen yakyûdan*, 1984), a drama about a youth baseball team set during the Occupation; *Gonza the Spearman* (*Chikamatsu Monzaemon: Yari no Gonza*, 1986), based on the Bunraku play by Chikamatsu Monzaemon about a warrior who masters the art of the tea ceremony; *The Dancer* (*Maihime*, 1989), a Japanese–German coproduction based on the novelist Mori Ôgai's semiautobiographical account of his love for a young German ballet dancer during his stay in Berlin from 1884 to 1888; *Owl's Castle* (*Fukurô no shiro*, 1999), like *Assassination* an adaptation of a Shiba Ryôtarô story, this time about ninjas and set at the end of the 16th century, which made heavy use of computer-generated imagery; and *Spy Sorge* (*Supai Zorge*, 2003), about the Soviet spy Richard Sorge's activities in Japan before the war.

SHINPA THEATER (SHINPA-GEKI, 新派劇). Literally meaning “New School,” *Shinpa* was a genre of stage play established in the late 1880s that

distinguished itself from the *kyûgeki* (“old dramas”) set in the feudal era or before by seeking to break away from the ossified stylistic traditions of Noh and Kabuki. Its melodramas and tragedies, adapted from popular literary works of the period, were set in contemporary times.

The earliest dramatic films made by **M. Pathé** and the **Yoshizawa** and **Yokota** companies around 1907 adopted the subject matter and stylistic conventions of the genre. They were made in conjunction with *Shinpa* repertory troupes, who would provide both script and actors, although at this time the static camera meant that there was no need for a director to be credited. Novels, including Tokutomi Roka’s *The Cuckoo* (*Hototogisu*), which detailed a tragic love affair between a military general’s daughter and a naval officer and was first published as a newspaper serialization in 1898 (see also WAR AND FILM); Ozaki Kôyô’s critique of capitalism, *The Golden Demon* (*Konjiki yasha*), in which a young woman who breaks off her engagement to a wealthy usurer is subjected to the jealousy of her former lover; and Kikuchi Yûhō’s *One’s Own Sin* (*Ono ga tsumi*), were just several of the popular works that provided the material for these early film dramas, and they were adapted on numerous occasions.

During the 1910s, *Shinpa* adaptations formed the basis of the *gendai-geki* films about contemporary life (as opposed to **Nikkatsu**’s highly popular brand of *jidai-geki*, which adapted the conventions of earlier theatrical forms), until the various voices associated with the **Pure Film Movement** urged Japanese cinema’s modernization away from straightforward “canned theater,” to exploit the possibilities available to the medium through editing and camera position. All of the significant *Shinpa* adaptations from this period can be considered lost, or are only preserved in fragments. See also CHAIN DRAMA.

SHINTOHO CORPORATION (SHINTÔHÔ KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 新東宝株式会社). Shintoho, literally meaning “New Toho,” was founded in 1947 following a series of labor strikes at the larger **Toho** studios, and was the smallest of the six companies that dominated production, distribution, and exhibition throughout the 1950s. Initially the company was marked by an idealistic, independent spirit and attracted some of the country’s top filmmaking talent. Its first production, *One Thousand and One Nights of Toho* (*Tôhō sen-ichi ya*, 1947), was set in a film studio and depicted the behind-the-scenes dramas of a fictional Toho production, with its actors, including Fujita Susumu, Yamane Toshiko, Kurokawa Yatarô, and **Takamine Hideko**, all of whom had defected to the new studio, playing versions of their screen personas. Distributed by Toho and directed by **Ichikawa Kon** (credited as Nakamura Toshi), the film was a commercial and critical failure. Ichikawa,

however, was responsible for Shintoho's first commercial success, *Three Hundred and Sixty-five Nights* (*Sanbyaku-rokujûgo-ya*, 1948). The company subsequently produced such noteworthy titles as **Kurosawa Akira's** *Stray Dog* (*Nora inu*, 1949), **Ozu Yasujirô's** *The Munekata Sisters* (*Munekata shimai*, 1950); **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952); and several late-career works by **Shimizu Hiroshi**, including *Mr Shosuke Ohara* (*Ohara Shôsuke-san*, 1949), *A Mother's Love* (*Bojô*, 1950), and *The Shiinomi School* (*Shiinomi gakuen*, 1955).

With a smaller distribution network and accordingly lower budgets available for production, Shintoho soon found itself struggling to retain its market share, and in 1955 the ailing company recruited producer Ôkura Mitsugi (1899–1978) to revive its fortunes, a one-time *benshi* who managed the profitable Fuji Eiga rental studios and owned a small chain of 38 theaters. Under Ôkura's auspices, the studio's output began to follow a more populist direction. Noting the success of the studio's earlier *Battleship Yamato* (*Senkan Yamato*, 1953), directed by Abe Yutaka, Ôkura lavished considerable resources on the production of the patriotic war epics *God of War Admiral Yamamoto and the Combined Fleet* (*Gunshin yamamoto gensui to rengô kantai*, 1956) and *The Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo-Japanese War* (*Meiji tennô to nichiro dai-sensô*, 1957), with the latter, shot in Eastman color, being Japan's second production to use a widescreen process. These films' box-office profitability, particularly the latter, which was the top-grossing film of the decade, temporarily alleviated Shintoho's financial problems.

Throughout the late 1950s, Shintoho became primarily associated with the more sensationalistic end of the market now referred to as *ero guro*, producing low-budget pulp thrillers, **horror** films, and detective stories made by directors including Ishii Teruo, Komori Kiyoshi, Magadani Morihei, **Nakagawa Nobuo**, and Shimura Toshio, with titles such as *Terrifying Invasion of the Flying Saucers* (*Soratobu enban kyôfu shûngeki*, 1956), *The Nude Model Murder Case* (*Nûdo moderu satsujin jiken*, 1958), *Girl Divers at Spook Mansion* (*Ama no bakemono yashiki*, 1959), and *Jailbreak from Women's Death Row* (*Onna shikeishû no datsugoku*, 1960). The films were commonly populated with Shintoho's in-house entourage of glamorous pin-up girls, who included Banri Masayo, Kubo Naoko, Maeda Michiko, and Mihara Yôko, collectively known as the *nikutai-ha joyû* ("flesh group actresses"), while male stars launched by the studio include Amachi Shigeru and Sugawara Bunta (see FUKASAKU KINJI).

Shintoho is also remembered for Japan's first superhero, *Super Giant*, who appeared in a series of nine *tokusatsu* ("special effects") films (see *KAIJÛ EIGA*) all under an hour in length. Beginning with *The Super Giant* (*Kôtetsu no kyôjin*, 1957), the first six entries were directed by Ishii Teruo, succeeded

by Mitsuwa Akira and then Akasaka Nagayoshi, who continued the series until its final installment, *Super Giant Continues: The Poison Moth Kingdom* (*Zoku Sûpâ Jaiaitsu: dokuga ôkoku*, 1959). The series was recut into four films, broadcast on U.S. television in the mid-1960s.

The company suffered immensely from the crisis in the industry during the late 1950s, brought about by the beginning of television broadcasting in 1953, and following the box-office failure of Nakagawa's *Jigoku* (*Hell*, 1960), it went into receivership in October 1961. Ôkura immediately founded a new company, Ôkura Productions, while another company, unofficially retaining the name Shintohto, was established by Gotô Kôichi, a former staff member of the original company's Kansai branch. Both companies became major producers of **pink film** and still operate to this day.

SHOCHIKU CORPORATION (SHÔCHIKU KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 松竹株式会社). Shochiku is Japan's oldest company currently involved in film production and exhibition. Founded in 1895 by entertainment promoter Ôtani Takejirô (1877–1969), the company began trading under its current name in 1902, when Ôtani was joined by his brother Shirai Matsujirô (1877–1951); it took its name from the alternative reading of the combined first characters of their first names, “Matsu” (*shô*) and “Take” (*chiku*), while also playing on the Japanese word *shochikubai*, comprised of the characters for pine, bamboo, and plum, which is traditionally used to denote happiness and high quality. It quickly established a virtual monopoly of the theatrical business through its ownership of a number of Kabuki and *Shinpa* acting troupes and theaters. Its entry into the motion picture market came later, in 1920, a decade after the establishment of **Nikkatsu**.

Named Shochiku Kinema, the new company immediately set forth its ambition of breaking away from the *jidai-geki* period swashbucklers that dominated the early market and of producing films that utilized the acting and stylistic techniques being pioneered in Western cinema. To this end, the company established studios in the town of Kamata, between Tokyo and Yokohama, and lured Henry Kotani, a young American-born Japanese who had worked as a cinematographer and actor at the Jesse L. Lasky Company in Hollywood (see HAYAKAWA SESSUE), to direct its first film, *Island Woman* (*Shima no onna*, 1920). With less than 10 percent of pre-1930s Japanese cinema surviving, it is difficult to make anything more than general comments about to what extent Shochiku adhered to its early manifesto, but it is clear from written sources that the company took a progressive approach at attempting to elevate the new medium from its hidebound stage traditions. Its earliest extant production is *Souls on the Road* (*Rojô no reikon*, 1921), codirected by Murata Minoru and Osanai Kaoru, the latter an important voice

in the **Pure Film Movement**. The film, which exists in a reconstructed print in the National Film Center, is the earliest example of a contemporary-set Japanese drama remaining in existence and broke new ground by interweaving two parallel narratives, similar to D. W. Griffith's *Intolerance* (1916), one of which was based on Maxim Gorky's play *The Lower Depths*.

The company also followed Nikkatsu's lead in introducing actresses to replace *oyama* female impersonators, with Kurishima Sumiko appearing in two films directed by Henry Kotani, *The Poppy* (*Gubijinsō*) and *An Electrician and His Wife* (*Denkō to sono tsuma*), released in quick succession after the release of the rival studio's *Winter Camellia* (*Kantsubaki*, Hatanaka Ryōha), starring Mizutani Yaeko, in April 1921. Kurishima, who had first appeared onscreen at the age of six in **M. Pathé's** *The New Peach Boy* (*Shin Momotarō*, 1909), also played a major role in Shochiku's second-oldest extant production (although only one reel survives), *The Cuckoo* (*Hototogisu*, 1922), directed by Ikeda Yoshinobu and adapted from the popular Meiji novel of the same name written by Tokutomi Roka (1868–1927). She soon became the most popular female star of the era.

Shochiku's earliest attempts at modernizing Japanese cinema, with tragedies and melodramas deriving from *Shinpa* stories made following the tenets of the Pure Film Movement, initially proved unpopular with many early audiences, who preferred the more action-driven historical *jidai-geki*. The company faced a further setback when its Kamata studios were destroyed by the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923, and it temporarily relocated its staff to its second studio, located in Shimokamo, Kyoto. In 1924, it appointed the 30-year-old Kido Shirō (1894–1977) to oversee production at the newly refurbished Kamata studios, who immediately set about radically changing the face of Japanese film by introducing the new *shomin-geki* genre, highly popular dramas more directly influenced by American cinema that reflected the lives of lower-middle class urban audiences at the time. "The Kamata style confronts a person with human truth in the form of familiar scenes from daily life," Kido later explained. The popularity of the *shomin-geki* films by directors such as Gosho Heinosuke, Nomura Hōtei, **Ozu Yasujirō**, Shimazu Yasujirō, **Shimizu Hiroshi**, and Ushihara Kiyohiko, which boasted such stars as Egawa Ureo, Okada Tokihiko, Suzuki Denmei, and **Tanaka Kinuyo**, ensured that Kamata remained the primary seat of Shochiku's production, with the smaller Shimokamo studios primarily used for the production of *jidai-geki*.

In 1931, Shochiku released Japan's first "sound-on-film" talkie, *The Neighbor's Wife and Mine* (*Madamu to nyōbō*), directed by Gosho using the domestically developed Dobashi system (other companies had previously experimented unsuccessfully with "sound-on-disk" techniques; see NIK-

KATSU CORPORATION), though for reasons that include the powerful role played by the *benshi* silent film narrators, sound was relatively slow to catch on in Japan. When the industry finally succumbed to the inevitable in the mid-1930s, Shochiku Kamata's strain of modernism was becoming engulfed by developments within the world it portrayed, as the rapid industrialization and urbanization that had informed its subject matter was put to a more ominous use as the nation devoted its resources to military and colonial expansion. The number of munitions factories and metal foundries in the area surrounding Kamata studios expanded after the Manchurian Incident of 1931, and the consequent increase in noise, which could have been ignored during the silent period, was one of the main reasons why, in 1936, Kido decided to move production farther outside Tokyo, to Ôfuna, near the ancient capital of Kamakura. The following year Shochiku Kinema and its parent company, Shochiku Entertainments (*Shôchiku Kôgyô*), were unified as Shochiku Corporation (*Shôchiku Kabushikigaisha*).

Kido was not immune to the new political order of the **wartime** period. As the conflict in the Asian mainland escalated, he became involved in government boards planning the role film was to take in the war effort, helping to establish the Greater Japan Film Association (*Dai Nihon Eiga Kyôkai*) in 1935, an organization whose purpose was to bring the film world closer in line with government policy. Shochiku's output following the passing of the **Film Law**, which restricted the type of cinema that the company had come to specialize in, became as propagandistic as the other companies, with its most notorious releases of the period the *anime* titles *Momotaro*, *Eagle of the Sea* (*Momotarô no umiwashi*, 1943) and *Momotaro, Divine Warrior of the Sea* (*Momotarô umi no shinpei*, 1945).

Following Japan's defeat, in 1947, Kido was charged as a Class A war criminal, along with Shochiku's cofounder, Ôtani, and the heads of several of the other studios, including **Nikkatsu's** Hori Kyûsaku and **Daiei's** Nagata Masaichi, and was expelled from the film industry. He was reinstated as the head of the studios once again as soon as the Occupation forces had departed. Upon Kido's return, Shochiku regained the status it had formerly held and went on to produce some of the most emblematic films of the Second Golden Age of Japanese cinema, with works by directors like Ozu, **Kinoshita Keisuke**, Nakamura Noboru, and Ôba Hideo contributing to the company's reliable brand of "Ôfuna-flavor" melodramas already well-established during the prewar years: bittersweet comedies and family movies marketed to the common man, with a special emphasis on female viewers. Ôba's three-part *What Is Your Name?* (*Kimi no na wa*, 1953–1954), a will-they-won't-they romantic drama in which a couple meet on a bridge during a wartime air raid and fall in love, promising that they will meet again although unfortunately

neglecting to tell each other their names, was the most commercially successful film of the early 1950s.

By the end of the decade, with the emergence of Nikkatsu's new brand of *taiyôzoku* youth movies, Shochiku's typical works began to be looked upon as conservative and old-fashioned by the new postwar generation of viewers, so Kido allowed three young assistant directors, **Shinoda Masahiro**, Yoshida Kijû, and **Ôshima Nagisa**, to make their debuts while still under the age of 30, branding them collectively the Shochiku Nouvelle Vague (*nûberu bâgu*) to draw parallels with recent developments in French cinema (see JAPANESE NEW WAVE). All three made groundbreaking works at the studio, before leaving to continue within the freer environment of **independent** production over the next decade.

During the 1960s, the major studios began losing ground against the emerging threat of television, leading to the bankruptcy of two of Shochiku's competitors, with **Shintoho** being the first in 1961 and Daiei following later in 1971. As attendance continued to fall and companies like Nikkatsu and **Toei** turned to violent and erotic subject matter, Shochiku managed to retain a sizable share of the domestic market and retain its wholesome family image, in large part due to the phenomenally popular films of **Yamada Yôji**, notably the numerous entries in the *It's Tough Being a Man* (*Otoko wa tsurai yo*, 1969-97) series. Yamada's more recent samurai trilogy, beginning with the Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Picture *Twilight Samurai* (*Tasogare seibei*, 2002), has been widely exported overseas.

As have the other major studios still active, since the mid-1980s Shochiku has been less reliant on film production than on revenues earned through other entertainment subsidiaries and foreign film distribution. While retaining its family-oriented reputation, it distributes a small fraction of domestic titles compared with its heyday in the 1950s, many of which are produced out-of-house. Significant titles distributed in the 21st century include **Suzuki Seijun**'s *Princess Raccoon* (*Operetta: Tanuki goten*, 2005); **Takita Yôjirô**'s *When the Last Sword Is Drawn* (*Mibugishiden*, 2003) and *Departures* (*Okuribito*, 2008), the CG anime *Vexille* (*Bekishiru*, Sori Fumihiko, 2007); and numerous entries in the long-running *Free and Easy* (*Tsuri baka nisshi*, 1988–) series, adaptations of the popular *manga* about a salaryman with an obsession for fishing, whose 19th installment was released to theaters in 2008.

SHOMIN-GEKI (庶民劇). Literally meaning “common people's dramas,” *shomin-geki* is a subgenre of *gendai-geki*, or contemporary-set dramas (as opposed to *jidai-geki*, or period dramas) that was pioneered by the **Shochiku** producer Kido Shirô in the 1920s. It is also sometimes referred to as *shisho-*

min-geki, with the prefix *shi* (meaning “city”) emphasizing the films’ urban or, more often, suburban settings.

The *shomin-geki* remained one of the core genres for Shochiku during the early decades of Japanese cinema, portraying the lives of the lower middle classes, the core demographic of audiences in Japan at the time, drawn to the rapidly modernizing and industrializing Tokyo and its environs. Though their context was Japanese, for their style and subject matter Shochiku’s early directors absorbed much from imported Hollywood films made by Ernst Lubitsch, Charlie Chaplin, and the now forgotten melodramas of Universal’s Bluebird Photoplay production unit, with familiar characters and dilemmas drawn from everyday life featuring in scenarios such as the lightweight *nan-sensu* (nonsense) salaryman farces, college-graduation movies, sports films, romantic melodramas, and home dramas. The films were mainly shot at the company’s Kamata studios, situated between Tokyo and Yokohama, or on location in the surrounding areas, and after 1936, at the new Ôfuna studios near the ancient capital of Kamakura. Though often associated with the prewar period, examples can be found that were made during the 1950s by directors most associated with the genre, **Ozu Yasujirô**, Goshô Heinosuke, and **Naruse Mikio**. They were also produced by studios other than Shochiku, with Naruse, for example, making many of his postwar works in the genre at **Toho**, including *Repast* (*Meshi*, 1951), a tale of marital discord starring **Hara Setsuko** and Uehara Ken

Shimazu Yasujirô’s lost film *Father* (*Chichi*, 1923), starring Mizutani Yaeko as a simple country girl in love with a baseball champion, marks the beginnings of the genre, while typical examples surviving to this day include Ozu’s *I Was Born, But . . .* (*Umarete wa mirakeredo*, 1932), which utilizes a lightly comic touch to depict the relationship between two brothers and their playground rival, the son of their father’s employer; Naruse’s *Flunky, Work Hard!* (*Koshiben ganbare*, 1931), a slapstick comedy about an unsuccessful insurance salesman and his attempts to avoid the rent collector; and Goshô’s *Where Chimneys Are Seen* (*Entotsu no mieru basho*, 1953), portraying several families living beneath the factory chimneys of industrial Tokyo.

SMAP. SMAP is a phenomenally popular “idol” (*aidoru*) boy band with a predominantly female fan base established in 1991 by the talent agency Johnny & Associates. The name is an acronym for Sports Music Assemble People. As well as their best-selling music CD releases, SMAP’s five individual members—Nakai Masahiro (1972–), Kimura Takuya (1972–), Kusanagi Tsuyoshi (1974–), Inagaki Gorô (1973–), and Katori Shingo (1977–)—regularly appear in television dramas, commercials, and movies. A sixth member, Mori Katsuyuki (1974–), left in 1996.

SMAP's original members appeared in Ômori Kazuki's *Shoot! (Shûto!)*, 1994), based on a soccer *manga* series by Ôshima Tsukasa. Selected roles the individuals played include Morita Yoshimitsu's *Copycat Killer (Mohôhan)*, 2002) for Nakai; Hong Kong director Wong Kar Wai's *2046* (2004) and Yamada Yôji's *Love and Honor (Bushî no ichibun)*, 2006) for Kimura; Ishii Katsuhito's *A Taste of Tea (Cha no aji)*, 2004) and Higuchi Shinji's 2006 version of Komatsu Sakyô's disaster novel *Japan Sinks (Nihon chinbotsu)* for Kusanagi; Ochiai Masayuki's sci-fi horror *Parasite Eve (Parasaito ibu)*, 1997) and *Hypnosis (Saimin)*, 1999) and, playing opposite **Yakusho Kôji**, *University of Laughs (Warai no daigaku)*, Hoshi Mamoru, 2004), a comedy about **censorship** during **wartime** scripted by the playwright-director Mitani Kôki, for Inagaki; and Suzuki Masayuki's *Legend of Nin Nin Ninja Hattori (Nin nin: Ninja Hattori-kun THE MOVIE)*, 2004) and Sawada Kensaku's *The Adventures of Super Monkey (Saiyûki)*, 2007) for Katori (with Kusanagi also appearing in cameos in both films). In April 2009, Kusanagi Tsuyoshi caused a national scandal when he was arrested for public indecency after being discovered naked and drunkenly wandering around the streets of Tokyo at 3:00 a.m.

STUDIO GHIBLI (スタジオジブリ). Studio Ghibli is an **animation** studio (see *ANIME*) founded in 1985 primarily to produce the films of **Miyazaki Hayao** and **Takahata Isao**, although it has also produced work by other directors, including Miyazaki's son Gorô (1967–). Taking its name from an Italian desert scout plane used in World War II, it was originally established as a subsidiary of the publishing company Tokuma Shoten for the production of *Laputa: Castle in the Sky (Tankû no shiro Rapyuta)*, 1986) following the resounding success of Miyazaki's previous film, *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (Kaze no tani no Naushika)*, 1984). Suzuki Toshio (1948–), the former editor of Tokuma's *Animage* magazine and the producer of *Nausicaä*, held the post of company president until 2008, when the former president of Walt Disney Japan, Hoshino Kôji (1956–), took over, leaving him to concentrate on his work as a producer.

Studio Ghibli is admired as much for the quality and imagination of its storytelling as for its adherence to hand-drawn 2D cell techniques. In Japan its releases since *Kiki's Delivery Service (Majo no takkyûbin)*, 1989) have regularly topped box-office charts and critics' top-ten lists, with Miyazaki's *Princess Mononoke (Mononoke-hime)*, 1997) and *Spirited Away (Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi)*, 2001) successively breaking all-time admission records for domestic releases. Since 1996, a major distribution deal with Walt Disney Studios has brought Ghibli's films to a wider international audience, with widespread theatrical and DVD releases outside of Japan of both the original versions and their English-language dubs.

The difference in style between the company's two main creative talents may be attributed to the fact that Miyazaki began in the industry in design and drawing and actively continues to pursue both roles during the production of his films, whereas Takahata was involved in scripting and directing some ten years before his partner and has never been involved in any of the graphic aspects of the animation process itself. The relationship between Miyazaki and Takahata began in the early 1960s when both worked at Toei Animation. The studio had produced a number of animated color features that had been successfully distributed overseas, including *Legend of the White Serpent* (*Hakujaden*, 1958), *Magic Boy* (*Shōnen Sarutobi Sasuke*, 1959), and *Journey to the West* (*Saiyūki*, 1960), but was beginning to focus on TV animation, which could be produced more quickly and cheaply. While series like *Ken the Wolf Boy* (*Ōkami shōnen Ken*, 1963–1965) and *Hustle Punch* (*Hassuru Panchi*, 1965–1966) provided a stable workload for the company's staff and valuable hands-on experience for Miyazaki and Takahata, both animators aspired to creating something more grandiose within the medium.

After the failure of Takahata's first theatrical animated feature, *Little Norse Prince* (*Taiyō no ōji: horusu no daibōken*, 1968), both he and Miyazaki left Toei Animation in 1971 and joined A Production, where they collaborated on the short films *Panda! Go Panda!* (*Panda kopanda*, 1972) and *Panda! Go Panda! Rainy Day Circus* (*Panda kopanda: Amefuri sākasu no maki*, 1973). The two also worked on several TV series of classics of world children's literature, including *Heidi* (*Arupusu no shōjo Haiji*, 1974–1979) and later *Anne of Green Gables* (*Akage no An*, 1979), with Miyazaki working on character and background designs while Takahata directed.

A number of other directors have also made films at Ghibli. The first was Mochizuki Tomomi with *Ocean Waves* (*Umi ga kikoeru*, 1993), a nostalgic tale of high-school romance made for television. In 1995, the studio released *Whispers of the Heart* (*Mimi o sumaseba*, 1995), about a fanciful schoolgirl who befriends a classmate through a chance encounter with his stray cat, leading her to pursue her own literary ambitions through his aspirations to become a top craftsman of violins. Its director, Kondō Yoshifumi (1950–1998), sadly died of an aneurysm at the young age of 47, and it remains his only work as a director. Morita Hiroyuki's follow-up, *The Cat Returns* (*Neko no ongaeshi*, 2001), based on a *manga* by Hiiragi Aoi like its predecessor, became the first Studio Ghibli film not directed by Hayao Miyazaki to gain widespread theatrical distribution outside of Japan. In 2006, Miyazaki Gorō directed *Tales from Earthsea* (*Gedo senki*), based on a fantasy novel by Ursula K. Le Guin, which, like previous offerings from Studio Ghibli, was the top-grossing domestic release of its year.

In 2001, the Ghibli Museum opened in Mitaka, Tokyo, and the company has also been active in promoting foreign animation within Japan, preparing the Japanese-language versions of a number of films, including Michel Ocelot's *Kirikou and the Sorceress* (*Kirikou et la sorcière*, 1998). Ghibli also collaborated with Production I.G. on **Oshii Mamoru's** *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence* (*Inosensu*, 2004), on which Suzuki was the producer.

SUZUKI SEIJUN (鈴木清順, 1923–). Suzuki Seijun is best known for his colorful and unorthodox B-movie program pictures made during the 1960s at **Nikkatsu**. He directed 40 titles at the studio, including *The Flower and the Angry Waves* (*Hana to dotô*, 1963), *Kanto Wanderer* (*Kantô mushuku*, 1963), *Tattooed Life* (*Irezumi ichidai*, 1965), and *Tokyo Drifter* (*Tôkyô nagaremono*, 1966), made mostly within Nikkatsu's popular *mukokuseki akushon* ("borderless action") hybrids of musicals, crime, and youth movies (*seishun eiga*).

Born in Tokyo's Nihonbashi district, in 1943 he was drafted to fight in the **war**. Returning to Japan, he entered Kamakura Academy's film department in 1946 and joined Shochiku as an assistant director later that year. He moved to Nikkatsu in 1954, after the studio resumed production after a 12-year hiatus, making his debut with *Harbor Toast: Victory Is in Our Grasp* (*Minato no kanpai: Shôri o wagate ni*, 1956) under his birth name of Suzuki Seitarô. He first adopted his working name of Suzuki Seijun in 1958 for his seventh film, the hard-boiled crime movie *Underworld Beauty* (*Ankokugai no bijo*), his first shot in widescreen NikkatsuScope. His first color film was *Fighting Delinquents* (*Kutabare gurentai*, 1960), about a teenage **yakuza** and his attempts to claim an unexpected family inheritance.

Although he has attained a retrospective cult status for his mold-breaking approach to generic scripts, compared with colleagues such as **Masuda Toshio** or Kurahara Koreyoshi, Suzuki was never considered a major director by his employers, with his films circulating on the lower halves of programs and not so popular with audiences. Nonetheless, with the colorful **yakuza** movie *Youth of the Beast* (*Yajû no seishun*, 1963), he began to gain critical notice. In the highly regarded "flesh trilogy" he moved away from formulaic entertainment pictures, occasionally dealing with more politicized subject matter, albeit with a satirical touch: *Gate of Flesh* (*Nikutai no mon*, 1964), based on a novel by Tamura Taijirô, was about a group of prostitutes who form a guild to protect their interests in the immediate postwar period; *Story of a Prostitute* (*Shunpuden*, 1965) was another Tamura adaptation, about a military comfort **woman** brought to the front line of the Sino-Japanese War in 1938; while *Carmen from Kawachi* (*Kawachi Karumen*, 1966) was enlivened with inventive references to Bizet's opera *Carmen* in its portrayal of a young girl who heads to Osaka's Kawachi district and becomes a popular

nightclub singer after leaving her hometown, where she has been assaulted. His most incisive film of the period was *Fighting Elegy* (*Kenka erejî*, 1966), based on a script by **Shindô Kaneto**. Set in the run-up to the attempted military coup of 1936 known as the *ni-ni-roku* incident, the film's brawling high-school antiheroes presented an allegory for the rise of militarism in Japan.

With Nikkatsu suffering financial difficulties in the late 1960s, in 1968 Suzuki was fired by its president, Hori Kyûsaku, allegedly for his “incomprehensible” hard-boiled gangster film *Branded to Kill* (*Koroshi no rakuin*, 1967), the story of a hitman's struggle to rise to Number One position in a hierarchy of paid assassins. It was written under the pseudonym Guryû Hachirô by an eight-man scriptwriting group headed by Suzuki himself, whose other members included the art director **Kimura Takeo** and the future **Roman Porno** directors/screenwriters Yamaguchi Seiichirô, Yamatoya Atsushi, and Tanaka Yôzô. After taking his employers to court for unfair dismissal and for Hori's blocking of a planned retrospective of his work organized by Kawakita Kazuko's Cinema Club Research Group (*Shine Kurabu Kenkyûkai*; see KAWAKITA NAGAMASA), Suzuki was effectively barred from filmmaking for the next decade, despite strong support from many in the industry, instead making a number of stand-alone works for television. In 2001, he directed an unofficial sequel to *Branded to Kill* entitled *Pistol Opera* (*Pisutoru opera*).

Suzuki returned to feature filmmaking in 1977 with the **Shochiku**-produced *Story of Sorrow and Sadness* (*Hisshû monogatari*), about a professional golfing model. The films best regarded in the second half of his career were the ghostly trilogy produced by Arato Genjirô and set in the Taishô era, *Zigeunerweisen* (*Tsigoineruwaizen*, 1980), *Kagerô-za* (1981), and *Yumeji* (1991). The first two in particular were critical successes that marked a short-lived departure toward a more artistic strain of filmmaking. Suzuki enjoyed his first international retrospective at the 1984 Pesaro International Film Festival, which brought him to the attention of Western audiences. During this period, he also directed the **anime** feature *Lupin the Third: The Golden Legend of Babylon* (*Rupan sansei: Babiron no ôgon densetsu*, 1985), one of the popular *Lupin III* series of films adapted from the *manga* of the same name (see also MIYAZAKI HAYAO).

While appearing in cameos in films including *Cold Fever* (1995), by Icelandic director Fridrik Thor Fridriksson; **Aoyama Shinji's** *EM Embalming* (1999); and Sabu's *The Blessing Bell* (*Kôfuku no kane*, 2002), Suzuki continued to direct into the new millennium, with his last film to date being *Princess Raccoon* (*Operetta: Tanuki goten*, 2005), a flamboyant supernatural musical-comedy starring Odagiri Jô and Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi, based on a series of films featuring *tanuki* (shape-shifting forest spirits from Japanese legend who adopt the form of raccoon dogs) from the 1930s and 1950s. See also KYÔ MACHIKO.

T

TAIYÔZOKU (太陽族). Literally meaning “Sun Tribe” and taking its name from **Ishihara Shintarô**’s novel *Season of the Sun* (*Taiyô no kisetsu*), adapted for the screen by Furukawa Takumi in 1956, *taiyôzoku* refers to a literary and cinematic cycle prevalent in the late 1950s that took the carefree lives of the postwar generation as its subject matter. Rejecting the morals, traditions, and subject matter of the previous generation, the *taiyôzoku* films appealed to young people. With their concerns with sexual liberation and youthful rebellion mirroring American works like *The Wild One* (Laslo Benedek, 1953), *Rebel Without a Cause* (Nicholas Ray, 1955), and *Blackboard Jungle* (Richard Brooks, 1955), these films were often highly controversial.

Many of the genre’s best-known titles—including Nakahira Kô’s *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*, 1956), about two brothers vying for the attention of a flirtatious young woman already married to an older American man, and **Ichikawa Kon**’s *Punishment Room* (*Shokei no heya*, 1956), about an unscrupulous thrill-seeking university student—were filmed from scripts or original short stories by Ishihara, who from 1999 would become the governor of Tokyo. Following a small role in *Season of the Sun*, Ishihara’s younger brother **Ishihara Yûjirô** became one of the most popular movie stars of his era before dying of liver cancer at the age of 52. Although most of the films were produced by **Nikkatsu**, other companies later contributed to the craze, including **Shochiku**, for whom **Ôshima Nagisa** delivered one of the late classics of the genre, *Cruel Story of Youth* (*Zankoku seishun monogatari*, 1960), although as the title of his next work, *The Sun’s Burial* (*Taiyô no hakaba*, 1960), suggests, by the early 1960s the cycle had begun to lose its novelty. The genre is seen as heralding the beginning of the **Japanese New Wave** of the 1960s.

TAKAHATA ISAO (高畑勲, 1935–). In contrast to the *anime* films of **Miyazaki Hayao**, his more prolific associate at **Studio Ghibli**, the works of Takahata Isao are more driven by plot and character than imagery and cover a wider range of thematic territory. His most powerful films adopt subjects that initially seem ill-suited for animation: *Grave of the Fireflies* (*Hotaru no haka*,

1988) tells the heart-rending story of a young brother and sister struggling to survive in **wartime** Kobe after their house is destroyed and their mother killed in a bombing raid, while *Only Yesterday* (*Omoide poro-poro*, 1991) is structured as a series of nostalgic childhood reminiscences of a young career girl as she travels home one summer vacation to the rural Yamagata region where she grew up. Outside of Studio Ghibli, Takahata also directed *The Story of Yanagawa Canal* (*Yanagawa horiwari monogatari*, 1987), a **documentary** with animated sequences on which Miyazaki served as producer.

Takahata directed his first theatrical feature, *Little Norse Prince* (*Taiyô no ôji: horusu no daibôken*, 1968), while working at Toei Animation (see TOEI COMPANY). An attempt at pushing the boundaries of Japanese animation in its story of a young hero's quest to defend his village from an evil sorcerer, it unfortunately failed to make back its production costs. Takahata was barred from directing by the company executives and in 1971 left, along with Miyazaki Hayao, to join A Production, established by another Toei Animation employee, Ôtsuka Yasuo (1931–). Here Takahata directed the short children's films *Panda! Go Panda!* (*Panda kopanda*, 1972) and *Panda! Go Panda! Rainy Day Circus* (*Panda kopanda: Amefuri sâkasu no maki*, 1973), on which Miyazaki received his first screenwriting credits. Before the establishment of Studio Ghibli in 1985, Takahata also directed the features *Jarinko Chie* (1981) and *Gauche the Cellist* (*Serohiki no Gôshu*, 1982), based on a story about a left-handed cello player by the poet and novelist Miyazawa Kenji.

Other films directed by Takahata at Studio Ghibli include *Pompoko* (*Heisei tanuki gassen ponpoko*, 1994), about a group of *tanuki* (shape-shifting mythical creatures whose natural form is that of raccoon dogs) fighting to protect their environment from urban development, and *My Neighbors the Yamadas* (*Hôhokekyo Tonari no Yamada-kun*, 1999), which derived its simple line-based visual style and vignette-based narrative from the popular *Asahi Shinbun* newspaper cartoon strip about an everyday Japanese family upon which it was based. The film was poorly received by audiences and counts as Takahata's last to date.

TAKAKURA KEN (高倉健, 1931–). Takakura Ken's stoic tough-guy persona and rugged good looks have earned him the sobriquet "the Clint Eastwood of Japan," as well as an iconic status that has lasted throughout a career of almost five decades. Born Oda Gôichi in Fukuoka Prefecture, after graduating from Meiji University's commerce department, he passed **Toei's** second New Face auditions in 1956 and remained contracted to the studio for the next two decades, appearing in some 10 films a year. Takakura made his debut with the Okinawan-set *Lightning Karate Strike* (*Denkô karate uchi*) and its companion piece, *Lighting Meteor Karate Strike* (*Denkô yûsei karate*

uchi), in which he played a comic salaryman, both directed by Tsuda Fujio and released simultaneously.

More characteristic were his roles as the heroic champion of the rights of Hokkaido's indigenous Ainu population in **Uchida Tomu's** *The Outsiders* (*Mori to mizuumi no matsuri*, 1958) and as one of the craven criminal siblings in **Fukasaku Kinji's** *Wolves, Pigs and Men* (*Ôkami to buta to ningen*, 1964). But it was his appearances in the company's *yakuza* movies, particularly its *ninkyô eiga* ("chivalry films") of the 1960s, that launched him to major stardom, in long-running serials such as the 11-part *A Story of Japanese Yakuza* (*Nihon kyôkaku-den*, 1964–1971) inaugurated by Makino Masahiro; the nine-part *Tales of Showa Era Chivalry* (*Shôwa zankyô-den*, various, 1965–1972); and the prison breakout series *Abashiri Prison* (*Abashiri bangaichi*, 1965–1967), whose 10 installments were directed by Ishii Teruo, with the first two entries in the following eight-film *New Abashiri Prison* (*Shin Abashiri bangaichi*, 1968–1972) series directed by Makino and Saeki Kiyoshi and the remainder by Furuhashi Yasuo.

Significant appearances for Toei during the 1970s include his lead as the eponymous antihero of Satô Junya's *Golgo 13* (*Gorugo 13*, 1973), adapted from Saitô Takao's *manga* series of the same name, and as the leader of a criminal gang that plants a bomb on a train in the action-disaster movie *Bullet Train* (*Shinkansen daibakuha*, Satô Junya, 1975) from the same director. However, with the crisis brought about by falling admissions that hit the major studios in the mid-1970s, he resigned from the company in 1976 to work as an independent actor, partly in an attempt to escape typecasting.

He subsequently played lead roles in films including Satô Junya's *When You Cross a River of Rage* (*Kimi yo funnu no kawa o watare*, 1976), produced by Nagata Masaichi, the former head of **Daiei**; **Yamada Yôji's** *The Yellow Handkerchief* (*Shiawase no kiroi hankachi*, 1977), for which he won his first Japan Academy Award for lead actor; and Kurahara Koreyoshi's *Antarctica* (*Nankyoku monogatari*, 1983), upon its release the top-grossing Japanese movie of all time which, as in the *Abashiri Prison* series, saw him pitted against a forbidding frozen environment (see ANIMAL MOVIE). Some of his most iconic roles from this period onward were in a series of mostly snowbound titles by Furuhashi Yasuo, the director of the final *New Abashiri Prison* film. These include *Winter Flower* (*Fuyu no hana*, 1978), *Station* (*Eki*, 1981), *Demon* (*Yasha*, 1985), *Poppoya: The Railroad Man* (*Poppoya*, 1999), and *The Firefly* (*Hotaru*, 2001), in which he played a Pacific War veteran. *Station* and *Poppoya* earned him his second and third Japan Academy Awards, respectively.

Takakura's star profile in Japan and his English-speaking ability have also resulted in his being cast in the Hollywood productions *The Yakuza* (Sydney

Pollack, 1974), Ridley Scott's *Black Rain* (1989), and Fred Schepisi's *Mr. Baseball* (1992), while in 2005 he appeared in *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* (*Qian li zou dan qi*) by Chinese director Zhang Yimou.

TAKAMINE HIDEKO (高峰秀子, 1924–2010). Takamine Hideko was one of the most popular and versatile actresses of her generation, famous for her appearances in the works of some of the greatest directors in Japanese cinema, including **Ozu Yasujiro**, **Kinoshita Keisuke**, and **Naruse Mikio**. Born Hirayama Hideko in Hakodate, Hokkaido, she began her career as a child actress at **Shochiku**, making her screen debut at the age of five in Nomura Hôtei's *Mother* (*Haha*) in 1929. She went on to appear in numerous films for the studio, including Ozu's *Tokyo Chorus* (*Tokyo no kôrasu*, 1931), as the ailing daughter of the insurance clerk protagonist who loses his job during the Great Depression, and as the youngest member of the two feuding families in **Shimizu Hiroshi**'s two-part *Seven Seas* (*Nanatsu no umi*, 1931/1932). She made her first stage appearance in 1932. Her final film for Shochiku prior to the war was Goshô Heinosuke's *Song of the Flower Basket* (*Hanakago no uta*, 1937).

In 1937, as Takamine's popularity increased, she moved to P.C.L. (later **Toho**), first appearing in Yamamoto Kajirô's two-part *A Husband's Chastity* (*Otto no teisô*). She appeared in a number of other films by this director, including as the Monkey Princess in *The Monkey King* (*Songokû*, 1940), based on the 16th-century Chinese literary classic by Wu Cheng'en, and *Horse* (*Uma*, 1941), scripted by **Kurosawa Akira**, as the teenager who raises the young colt of the title until it is taken in by the army, as well as in works by others such as Imai Tadashi (see INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION; TOEI COMPANY), Makino Masahiro, and **Yamamoto Satsuo**. One of her final appearances for Toho was as herself in the studio's pro-unionization film *Those Who Create Tomorrow* (*Asu o tsukuru hitobito*), directed by Yamamoto Kajirô, Kurosawa Akira, and Sekigawa Hideo. She left the company along with nine of its other top stars to join the newly formed **Shinto**, appearing in the company's first film, *One Thousand and One Nights of Toho* (*Tôhō sen-ichi ya*, 1947), directed by **Ichikawa Kon** (as Nakamura Toshi). Her best-remembered roles from this period were in Abe Yutaka's adaptation of **Tanizaki Junichirô**'s *The Makioka Sisters* (*Sasameyuki*, 1950) and Ozu's *The Munekata Sisters* (*Munekata shimai*, 1950).

In 1951, Takamine went freelance, playing the title role in Japan's first color feature, *Carmen Comes Home* (*Karumen kyokô ni kaeru*, 1951), a comedy directed by Kinoshita for Shochiku, and its sequel, *Carmen's Pure Love* (*Karumen junjôsu*, 1952), demonstrating her versatility in the same director's *Garden of Women* (*Onna no sono*, 1954), set in a girls' boarding school,

and the epic melodrama *Twenty-Four Eyes* (*Nijûshi no hitomi*, 1954), as the provincial primary school teacher who guides her children over the 20-year period from 1927 to 1946. Other notable roles include Goshô's classic post-war **shomin-geki** *Where Chimneys Are Seen* (*Entotsu no mieru basho*, 1953), Inagaki Hiroshi's 1958 version of *Rickshaw Man* (*Muhô Matsu no issei*), and Toyoda Shirô's adaptation of Mori Ôgai's *Wild Geese* (*Gan*, 1953), playing the mistress of a moneylender who refuses to commit to her.

The role of a **woman** trapped in an impossible relationship was reprised for one of her finest performances in Naruse's *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955), which won her the year's **Kinema Jumpô** Award for Best Actress, as her character fruitlessly attempted to recapture the passion of her love affair with a man (Mori Masayuki) posted with her to French Indochina by the Forestry Department during the war after they return to Tokyo. Takamine's collaborations with Naruse are considered some of her finest performances. The two first worked together on *Hideko the Bus Conductress* (*Hideko no shashô-san*, 1941) while under contract at Toho, with Takamine appearing in over a dozen of Naruse's late-career works, including *Lightning* (*Inazuma*, 1952); *Flowing* (*Nagareru*, 1956); *A Wife's Heart* (*Tsuma no kokoro*, 1956); *Untamed Woman* (*Arakure*, 1957); *When a Woman Ascends the Stairs* (*Onna ga kaidan wo agaru toki*, 1960); and the director's penultimate film, *Hit and Run* (*Hikinige*, 1966).

In 1955, she married Matsuyama Zenzô, a director and screenwriter whose scripts include Naruse's *Daughters, Wives and a Mother* (*Musume tsuma haha*, 1960) and *Yearning* (*Midareru*, 1964), both of which Takamine appeared in; Kobayashi Masaki's World War II trilogy *The Human Condition* (*Ningen no jôken*, 1959–1961; see WAR AND FILM); and the **Kadokawa Haruki** production of *Proof of the Man* (*Ningen no shômei*, 1977), directed by Satô Junya. She became less prolific throughout the 1960s and 1970s, appearing mainly for Naruse and Kinoshita, and in her husband's films, including *My Hobo* (*Burari burabura monogatari*, 1962), *Dark the Mountain Snow* (*Rokujô yuki yama tsumugi*, 1965), and *The Day of Laughing and Crying* (*Nakinagara warau hi*, 1977). She also acted in **Masumura Yasuzô**'s biopic *The Wife of Seishu Hanaoka* (*Hanaoka Seishû no tsuma*, 1967), as the mother of the Edo-period physician of the title, who developed Japan's first general anesthetic, and worked on television from 1968. Her final credit before her retirement from the screen in 1979 was Kinoshita's *Impulse Murder: Only Son* (*Shôdô satsujin: Musuko yo*).

As well as recording a number of hit records, including the title songs from *Ginza Can-Can Girl* (*Ginza kankan musume*, Shima Kôji, 1949) and *Carmen Comes Home*, Takamine has written a number of biographical books about her life in cinema.

TAKECHI TETSUJI (武智鉄二, 1912–1988). Takechi Tetsuji's significance in film history has less to do with the quality of his output than with his involvement in a number of high-profile **copyright** scandals, particularly that surrounding *Black Snow* (*Kuroi yuki*, 1965). As a director, Takechi's main sphere of interest was on the stage, and he was seen as something of an interloper in the film industry.

Born in Osaka as Kawaguchi Tetsuji, the son of a wealthy foundry manager, after studying economics at Kyoto University, he made his name as a theater critic and theorist, establishing the journal *Gekihyō* (*Drama Criticism*) in 1939, through which he espoused his views on modernizing the traditional theatrical forms of Kabuki and Noh, for example, by utilizing women as performers. In 1949, for this very purpose, he formed the Takechi Kabuki troupe, many of whose actors would appear in his film works. Through his stage productions, Takechi soon established a certain reputation and was significantly well known for a series of 13 plays he directed, aired on NTV in 1956–1957 as *The Takechi Tetsuji Hour*.

Takechi first turned to film in 1963 with *Women . . . Oh Women!* (*Nihon no yoru: onna onna onna monogatari*, 1963), a sensationalist documentary about Tokyo nightlife that was released by **Shochiku** and even found distribution in America. His next work, *Daydream* (*Hakujitsumu*, 1964), about a nightclub singer's erotic fantasies in a dentist's waiting room, caused a national scandal despite being passed by *Eirin* (see **CENSORSHIP**) and also provoked the disapprobation of the story's original author, **Tanizaki Junichirō**. To avert further problems, a large amount of footage from his next film, another Tanizaki adaptation entitled *Dream of the Red Chamber* (*Kōkeimu*, 1964), was expurgated before its release.

The release of Takechi's *Black Snow* (*Kuroi Yuki*, 1965) by **Nikkatsu** led to the film industry's first public obscenity case. The film was set in a brothel frequented by American servicemen and depicted the murder of an Afro-American G.I. by the son of a prostitute. It featured a notorious three-minute sequence of a girl running naked along the perimeter fence of the nearby Yokota Airbase after being assaulted. Several powerful voices in the arts world, including Abe Kōbō, **Mishima Yukio**, and **Ōshima Nagisa**, publicly lent their support to Takechi, who claimed that the prosecution was motivated by political reasons for his criticism of the continuing presence of U.S. troops on Japanese soil almost 15 years after the Occupation had ended. Takechi was cleared of all charges on 17 September 1967, and in the meantime had already made an erotic version of *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari*, 1966), but the incident severely damaged his reputation in the film world. With newspapers refusing to print advertisements for his next two productions, *Floating World Cruel Story* (*Ukiyo-e zangoku monogatari*) and *Postwar Cruel Story* (*Sengo*

zankoku monogatari), both released by Daiei in 1968, Takechi withdrew from film production for over a decade.

In 1981, Takechi remade *Daydream* in a hardcore pornographic version starring Japan's first AV (adult video) star, Aizome Kyôko. The film played in censored versions in Japanese theaters, but was released unexpurgated in several foreign territories, as was Takechi's next production, *Oiran* (1983), an amalgamation of two short stories also by Tanizaki: "Tattoo" ("Shi-sei") and "The Tumor with a Human Face" ("Jinmensô"). His pornographic interpretation of Izumi Kyôka's story *The Saint of Mount Koya* (*Kôya hijiri*, 1983) was not released in Japan at all, only playing in the U.S. territory of Guam, where it was seen by numerous Japanese tourists. Takechi's final film was *Daydream 2* (*Hakujitsumu 2*, 1987), his second hardcore remake of Tanizaki's story and again starring Aizome. He died of pancreatic cancer in 1988.

TAKEMITSU TÔRU (武満徹, 1930–1996). Takemitsu Tôru was an internationally renowned, avant-garde composer who drew his influences from jazz, modern, classical, and traditional Japanese music. As well as numerous orchestral, chamber, and solo instrumental pieces, he composed over a hundred scores for some of the best-known Japanese films of the latter part of the 20th century. His music for Ôshima Nagisa's *Empire of Passion* (*Ai no bôrei*, 1978), Kurosawa Akira's *Ran* (1985), Teshigahara Hiroshi's *Rikyu* (*Rikyû*, 1989), and Shinoda Masahiro's *Sharaku* (1995), his final film score, received awards for Outstanding Achievement in Music at the Japan Academy Awards in 1979, 1986, 1990, and 1996, respectively.

Takemitsu's first film work was contributing to the soundtrack of Nakahira Kô's early *taiyôzoku* film, *Crazed Fruit* (*Kurutta kajitsu*, 1956). He subsequently worked on several films produced at **Shochiku** during the late 1950s, including a number of titles by Nakamura Noboru such as *Before and After the Rains* (*Tsuyu no atosaki*, 1956), *Cloudburst* (*Doshaburi*, 1957), and *People Awaiting Spring* (*Haru o matsu hitobito*, 1959), as well as Shinoda's second film, *Dry Lake* (*Kawaita mizuumi*, 1960). This latter title marked his first collaboration with a director associated with the **Japanese New Wave**, whose works regularly benefited from Takemitsu's haunting compositions. As well as Shinoda, for whom he scored numerous titles, including *Pale Flower* (*Kawaita hana*, 1964), *Assassination* (*Ansatsu*, 1964), *Double Suicide* (*Shinjû-ten Amijima*, 1969), and *Silence* (*Chinmoku*, 1971), Takemitsu scored all of Teshigahara's films, and many titles by **Hani Susumu**, Kobayashi Masaki, Kurosawa, Onchi Hideo, Ôshima, and Yoshida Kijû.

His work includes Kobayashi's *Kwaidan* (*Kaidan*, 1964), Naruse Mikio's *Scattered Clouds* (*Midaregumo*, 1967), Onchi's 1967 adaptation of **Kawabata Yasunari's** *The Izu Dancer* (*Izu no odoriko*), Kurosawa's *Dodesukaden*



Takechi Tetsuji's Daydream (Hakujitsumu, 1964), an early example of the pink film genre.

(1970), **Yanagimachi Mitsuo's** *Fire Festival* (*Himatsuri*, 1985), Yoshida's *Onimaru* (*Arashigaoka*, 1988), and **Imamura Shôhei's** *Black Rain* (1989).

TAKITA YÔJIRÔ (滝田洋二郎, 1955–). A director of popular commercial cinema, Takita Yôjirô became known to the world when his *Departures* (*Okuribito*, 2008) won the award for Best Foreign Language Film at the 81st Academy Awards in 2009. The film told the story of a professional cello

player who loses his job and moves back to his hometown in Yamagata prefecture to become an undertaker.

Takita began his career in the **pink film** industry, making his debut with *Molester Woman Teacher* (*Chikan onna kyôshi*) in 1981. He is best known in this early period for his entries in the *Molester Train* series, initiated by Yamamoto Shinya's *Molester Train* (*Chikan densha*), released in 1975. Films such as *Molester Train: Keep on Going* (*Chikan densha: Motto tsukete*, 1982) and *Molester Train: Underwear Inspection* (*Chikan densha: Shitagi kensatsu*, 1984) demonstrated a keen sense of pacing and comic verve, while he also made more serious work such as the thriller *Serial Rape* (*Renzoku bôkan*, 1983), starring **Ôsugi Ren**.

Takita continued in the comic vein with his mainstream debut *No More Comics* (*Komikku zasshi nanka iranai!*, 1986), a satire on television news broadcasting featuring the rock singer Uchida Yûya (founder of Flower Travellin' Band) and Beat Takeshi (see KITANO TAKESHI). Other films include *The Yen Family* (*Kimurake no hitobito*, 1988), a family drama satire on the materialism of the Bubble Era; the hospital comedy *Let's Go to the Hospital* (*Byôin e ikô*, 1990); *We Are Not Alone* (*Bokura wa minna ikiteiru*, 1993), which depicted the troubles that beset a businessman (Sanada Hiroyuki) traveling through a fictitious developing country to look at Japan's relationship with Asia, a theme also explored in *The Tropical People* (*Nettai rakuen kurabu*, 1994), about a travel agent posted to Bangkok; and *The Exam* (*Ojuken*, 1999), a critique of Japanese education in which a six-year-old girl is pushed by her parents as she prepares for an entrance exam to an exclusive school.

Outside of comedy, Takita has directed the Heian-period fantasies *The Yin Yang Master* (*Onmyôji*, 2001) and *The Yin Yang Master 2* (*Onmyôji II*, 2003), based on the 10th-century court magician Abe no Seimei; *When the Last Sword Is Drawn* (*Mibugishiden*, 2003), a **jidai-geki** depicting two members of the *Shinsengumi* militia during the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate; *Ashura* (*Ashura-jô no hitomi*, 2005), a fantasy in which Edo-period Japan is at war with demons; and the baseball drama *Battery* (*Batterî*, 2007).

TAMURA MASAKI (田村正毅, 1939–). Beginning his career at **Iwanami Productions**, Tamura Masaki is a cinematographer best known for his vigorously engaged camera work on **Ogawa Shinsuke's** *Sanrizuka* documentary series and the more contemplative later films shot in the environs of Magino Village, although Tamura himself was never officially a member of Ogawa Pro. His majestic depictions of the Japanese landscape in the latter films made him the cinematographer of choice for art-house productions like **Yanagi-machi Mitsuo's** *Fire Festival* (*Himatsuri*, 1985) and **Kawase Naomi's**

Suzaku (*Moe no suzaku*, 1997), and he has also enjoyed a series of fruitful collaborations with **Aoyama Shinji**, with notable works including *Helpless* (1996), *Shady Grove* (1999), *Eureka* (*Yurika*, 2001), and *Sad Vacation* (*Saddo bakeishon*, 2007).

Following his involvement with the *Sanrizuka* films, Tamura began working as a freelancer, lending his talents to less characteristically commercial projects, such as Fujita Toshiya's *Lady Snowblood* (*Shurayukihime*, 1973), **Itami Jûzô**'s food comedy *Tanpopo* (*Tanpopo*, 1985), Ikeda Toshiharu's gory **horror** film *Evil Dead Trap* (*Shiryô no wana*, 1988), and Hayashi Kaizô's eccentric fantasy-adventure *Zipang* (1990). Other significant films include **Ishii Sôgo**'s anarchic family satire *Crazy Family* (*Gyakufunsha kazoku*, 1984), Suwa Nobuhiro's documentary-style relationship drama *2/Duo* (*2/Dyuo*, 1997), **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**'s experimental **yakuza** diptych of *Serpent's Path* (*Hebi no michi*, 1998) and *Eyes of the Spider* (*Kumo no hitomi*, 1998), and Kuroki Kazuo's depiction of rural family life at the very end of the **war** in *A Boy's Summer in 1945* (*Utsukushii natsu kirishima*, 2002).

TANAKA KINUYO (田中絹代, 1909–1977). One of the most highly regarded actresses of her generation, Tanaka Kinuyo enjoyed a career lasting 50 years, with over 250 credited film appearances. She was also a pioneering **woman** filmmaker and the second cousin of the director Kobayashi Masaki. She is perhaps best known for her roles for **Mizoguchi Kenji**, and during the period of their 15 collaborations together between 1940 and 1954, her romantic involvement with the director was the subject of much speculation.

Tanaka's first credited appearance was in the minor part of a maid in *A Woman of the Genroku Era* (*Genroku onna*), directed by Nomura Hôtei at **Shochiku**'s Kamata studios in 1924. With her screen persona falling perfectly in line with traditional notions of femininity and beauty, throughout the decade she rose rapidly to become the company's biggest star, remaining under contract there until her public resignation from the studio to go freelance following a three-month trip to the United States in October 1949 as Japan's first postwar cultural envoy. She also appeared in a number of films in the 1920s by **Shimizu Hiroshi**, whom she married in 1929. Although the marriage lasted less than a year, she played in several later works by her ex-husband, notably the *Ornamental Hair Pin* (*Kanzashi*, 1941).

Tanaka consolidated her status as Japan's most popular actress throughout the prewar period in films including **Ozu Yasujirô**'s *I Graduated, But . . .* (*Daigaku wa deta keredo*, 1929), *I Flunked, But . . .* (*Rakudai wa shita keredo*, 1930), and *An Innocent Maid* (*Hakoiri musume*, 1935). She adapted perfectly to the sound era as the wife of the playwright in Japan's first talkie, *The Neighbor's Wife and Mine* (*Madamu to nyôbô*, 1931) by Gosho Heino-

suke, and played the title role in the same director's silent adaptation of **Kawabata Yasunari's** *The Izu Dancer* (*Koi no hana saku: Izu no odoriko*, 1933). She also played as Okoto, the blind daughter of a wealthy merchant, in Shimazu Yasujirō's *Okoto and Sasuke* (*Shunkin shō: Okoto to Sasuke*, 1935), an adaptation of **Tanizaki Junichirō's** *A Portrait of Shunkin* (*Shunkin shō*). During the decade, she was so popular that several titles bore her name: Gosho's *The Kinuyo Story* (*Kinuyo monogatari*, 1930) and two films by Nomura Hiromasa, *Doctor Kinuyo* (*Joi Kinuyo sensei*, 1937) and *Kinuyo's First Love* (*Kinuyo no hatsukoi*, 1940). She also appeared in Nomura's *The Love-Troth Tree* (*Aizen katsu*, 1938), a romance in which she played a nurse in love with a doctor, played by Uehara Ken, which became the biggest-grossing film of the prewar and war periods.

In 1940, Tanaka first appeared for Mizoguchi, in *A Woman of Osaka* (*Naniwa onna*), although sadly there are no extant prints of this title. Mizoguchi is credited with transforming the actress, giving her more challenging parts and allowing her career to enter a new phase. Typical of her roles for the director, as hard-working, long-suffering women at the mercy of the patriarchal order, was *Life of Oharu* (*Saikaku ichidai onna*, 1952), in which she played an attendant of the imperial court in Kyoto who is forced into exile after an unsuitable liaison with a low-born page (played by **Mifune Toshirō**), beginning an irreversible decline in her fortunes as she descends in status to concubine, then common prostitute. Other appearances for Mizoguchi include *Five Women Around Utamaro* (*Utamaro o meguru gonin no onna*, 1946), *The Lady from Musashino* (*Musashino fujin*, 1951), *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953), *Sansho the Bailiff* (*Sanshō dayū*, 1954), and *A Woman of Rumor* (*Uwasa no onna*, 1954).

Tanaka also made noteworthy appearances in films for other directors during this period, including several works for **Kinoshita Keisuke**, such as *Army* (*Rikugun*, 1944), *The Yotsuya Ghost Story* (*Tōkaidō Yotsuya kaidan*, 1949), and *The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*, 1958), for which she received the Best Actress Award from the magazine ***Kinema Jumpō***; Gosho's *Where Chimneys Are Seen* (*Entotsu no mieru basho*, 1953); **Naruse Mikio's** *Ginza Cosmetics* (*Ginza geshō*, 1951), *Mother* (*Okaasan*, 1952), and *Flowing* (*Nagareru*, 1956); and Ozu's *A Hen in the Wind* (*Kaze no naka no mendori*, 1948) and *Equinox Flower* (*Higanbana*, 1958).

Tanaka's 1949 visit to Hollywood prompted her to go freelance, affording her the ability to choose the directors she wished to work with and also giving her the impetus to direct her own films. Though she was not, as is often suggested, Japan's first woman filmmaker, she was the first to establish a significant body of work, directing six films between 1953 and 1962. Released by **Shinto**, *Love Letter* (*Koibumi*, 1953) was a romantic melodrama scripted

by Kinoshita that was entered in competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 1954 and focused on the predicaments of women in the postwar era; *The Moon Has Risen* (*Tsuki wa noborinu*, 1955) was a family drama for the newly reformed **Nikkatsu**, scripted by Ozu and the screenwriter Saitô Ryôsuke; *The Eternal Breasts* (*Chibusa yo eien nare*, 1955) was about a woman poet who succumbs to breast cancer; *The Wandering Princess* (*Ruten no ôhi*, 1960), starring **Kyô Machiko**, was scripted by **Ichikawa Kon**'s wife, Wada Natto, from the autobiography of the Japanese woman who was chosen by the militarists to marry the brother of Puyi, the puppet Emperor of Manchuria (see also MANCHURIA FILM ASSOCIATION); *Girls of Dark* (*Onna bakari no yoru*, 1961) was about the rehabilitation of young prostitutes; and *Love Under the Crucifix* (*Oginsama*, 1962) was a tragic *jidai-geki* set against the backdrop of Japan's suppression of Christianity at the end of the 16th century. Though Tanaka only appeared, if at all, in minor roles in her own films, it has been suggested that her status as an actress undermined her work as a filmmaker, which, compounded with the male-dominated environment of the industry, ultimately led to her withdrawal from directing.

In the 1960s Tanaka, as an actress, moved increasingly toward television, though she made noteworthy appearances in, among other films, Ichikawa's *Her Brother* (*Otôto*, 1960) and *Alone Across the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô hitori-botchi*, 1963); **Kurosawa Akira**'s *Red Beard* (*Akahige*, 1965); and most notably **Kumai Kei**'s *Sandakan No. 8* (*Sandakan hachiban shôkan: Bôkyô*, 1974), playing the aged overseas prostitute now returned to Japan, whose reminiscences form the structure of the story, for which she received her second Best Actress Award from *Kinema Jumpô* and the same award at the 1975 Berlin Film Festival. She was also one of the interviewees in **Shindô Kaneto**'s documentary *Kenji Mizoguchi: The Life of a Film Director* (*Aru eiga kantoku no shôgai: Mizoguchi Kenji no kiroku*, 1975). Her last screen appearance, before her death of a brain tumor on 21 March 1977, was in *Lullaby for the Good Earth* (*Daiichi no komoriuta*, 1976), directed by **Masumura Yasuzô**.

TANIZAKI JUNICHIRO (谷崎潤一郎, 1886–1965). Tanizaki Junichirô was one of the best-known Japanese novelists and essayists of the 20th century. His writing, especially in the early half of his career, was marked by a fascination with the West and issues surrounding Japanese cultural identity, modernization, and, in particular, cinema, and he was a vocal advocate for the reformation of Japanese cinema within the **Pure Film Movement**.

Tanizaki's stories, often containing themes of erotic obsession, have been remarkably popular with filmmakers. His first published work, *The Tattooer* (*Shi-sei*), about a tattoo artist who abducts a young girl and adorns her with the image of a large spider that awakens in her a new awareness of her sexu-

ality, appeared as part of a collection of short stories in 1910 and has been filmed by **Masumura Yasuzô** for **Daiei** in 1966; in a **Roman Porno** version for **Nikkatsu** by Sone Chûsei in 1984 (both times as *Irezumi*, the orthodox reading of the “shi” and “sei” character combination used in the original story’s title); and in two related works by directors who made their names in the **pink film** sector, Satô Hisayasu and Zeze Takahisa; *Si-sei* (*Shi-sei*, 2005) and *Si-sei 2: The Fallen Spider* (*Shi-sei 2: Ochita jorôgumo*, 2007). **Takechi Tetsuji**, a director habitually drawn to Tanizaki’s work with films such as *Daydream* (*Hakujitsumu*, 1964), also combined elements with another of the author’s short stories, “The Tumor with a Human Face” (“*Jinmensô*”), in *Oiran* (1983).

Another of Tanizaki’s most regularly adapted works is *A Fool’s Love* (*Chijin no ai*, published in the English language as *Naomi*), about a traditional man who becomes besotted with a Western-looking café waitress, which first appeared serialized in the Osaka *Asahi Shinbun* newspaper in 1924 and was filmed twice by the director Kimura Keigo, with **Kyô Machiko** as the object of the narrator’s obsession in his 1949 version and Kanô Junko in the 1960 version. Other adaptations of the same story are **Masumura Yasuzô**’s 1967 version, starring Yasuda Michiyo, and Takabayashi Yôichi’s 1980 version, starring Mizuhara Yûki, the latter released under the title *Naomi* (see also WOMEN).

Tanizaki’s *The Reed Cutter* (*Ashikari*), published in 1932 and telling the story of two sisters in love with the same man, was filmed by **Mizoguchi Kenji** in 1951 as *Miss Oyu* (*Oyû-sama*). *A Portrait of Shunkin* (*Shunkin shô*), a 1933 novella about the spoiled daughter of a wealthy merchant who, blind since childhood, makes her living by giving music lessons on the *koto* and develops a macabre relationship with her attendant Sasuke, was first filmed by Shimazu Yasujirô in 1935 as *Okoto and Sasuke* (*Shunkin shô: Okoto to Sasuke*), with **Tanaka Kinuya** as Okoto, and subsequently by Itô Daisuke in 1954 as *Tale of Shunkin* (*Shunkin monogatari*), with Kyô Machiko; by **Kinugasa Teinosuke** in 1961 as *Okoto and Sasuke* (*Okoto to Sasuke*), with Yamamoto Fujiko; and by Nishikawa Katsumi in 1976 as *Spring Koto* (*Shunkin shô*), with **Yamaguchi Momoe**. *Manji* (published in English as *Quicksand*), a story first serialized between 1928 and 1930, about a married woman who begins a lesbian relationship with a woman she meets at an art class, was filmed by Masumura in 1964 and by Yokoyama Hiroto in 1983. *The Key* (*Kagi*), a 1956 novel about a middle-aged married couple who reveal their mutual infidelities in their diaries to make each other jealous, was filmed by **Ichikawa Kon** in 1959 (released overseas as *Odd Obsession*); in 1974 as a Roman Porno film by Kumashiro Tatsumi; in a more explicit version produced by **Wakamatsu Kôji** and directed by Kimata Akitaka in 1983; in

an Italian version directed by Tinto Brass as *La Chiave* (1983); and in Ikeda Toshiharu's version in 1997, released by **Toei** (see CENSORSHIP). Toyoda Shirô filmed *A Cat, a Man, and Two Women* (*Neko to shôzô to futari no onna*) in 1956, and *Diary of a Mad Old Man* (*Fûten rôjin nikki*), a novel about an old man who becomes besotted with his daughter-in-law, was published in 1961 and filmed by Kimura Keigo the following year.

Tanizaki's contributions to cinema go further, however, than adaptations of his work. More so (and earlier) than his contemporary **Kawabata Yasunari**, he was active in attempts to elevate cinema to the status of a unique art form within Japan, through his writing on film in the 1910s and 1920s (often highly critical of the Japanese product), his involvement in the Pure Film Movement, and his association with the Yokohama-based company Taikatsu. Tanizaki was invited to join the company by Thomas Kurihara (born Kurihara Kisaburô), who had returned from America in 1918, where he had been working as an actor for Thomas Ince (see AOKI TSURUKO; HAYAKAWA SESSUE). Kurihara set up Taikatsu in 1920 with the financial backing of Asano Yoshizô, with the aim of importing foreign productions as well as producing its own films. Tanizaki's employment as a screenwriter was intended to lend a more highbrow literary credibility to the company's ambitious productions. His four scripts for the company, all directed by Kurihara, were *Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu* 1920), a contemporary comedy modeled on American slapstick that starred the author's sister-in-law, Hayama Michiko, and revolved around the production of a Kabuki play by the members of a bourgeois amateur dramatics club in Kamakura; *The Sands of Katsushika* (*Katsushika sunago*, 1920), a period drama adapted from a novel by Izumi Kyôka about a young courtesan; *Night of the Doll Festival* (*Hina matsuri no yoru*, 1921), in which a young girl's toys come alive while she sleeps; and *The Lust of the White Serpent* (*Jasei no in*, 1921), a supernatural fantasy set in the Heian period based on the same source as **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Ugetsu* (*Ugetsu monogatari*, 1953). Unfortunately, the company failed soon after this last production, and no prints survive of its films.

Tanizaki's move to Kyoto following the Great Kantô Earthquake of 1923 initiated what many have seen as a new phase in his life, with the writer retreating from the film industry and focusing his attention away from the West toward Japanese traditions and aesthetics, as manifested in his 1933 essay "In Praise of Shadows" (*Inei raisan*) and his monumental novel *The Makioka Sisters* (*Sasameyuki*). Serialized between 1943 and 1948 and set in the Kansai area during the war, the latter tells the story of a formerly wealthy noble family and its four daughters, and was filmed in 1950 by Abe Yutaka, in 1959 by Shima Kôji, and in 1983 by **Ichikawa Kon**.



Amateur Club (Amachua kurabu, 1920), directed by Thomas Kurihara, an example of a Pure Film scripted by Tanizaki Junichirô.



Thomas Kurihara's The Lust of the White Serpent (Jasei no in, 1921), produced by Taikatsu from a script by Tanizaki Junichirô.

TENDENCY FILM (KEIKÔ EIGA, 傾向映画). Tendency films were dramas that highlighted the social injustices and inequalities of the worldwide Great Depression of the late 1920s through early 1930s. Although they came from a distinctly left-wing perspective, the passing of the Peace Preservation Law (*Chian ijihô*) in 1925, which prohibited the dissemination of works that could be considered communist propaganda or that advocated the abolition of private property and changes in national polity, criticism remained implicit in their fictional narratives.

It was a stance rather than a particular setting or style that characterized the tendency film, and examples can be found in both the *jidai-geki* and *gendai-geki* genres. Itô Daisuke's *Man-Slashing, Horse-Piercing Sword* (*Zanjin zamba ken*, 1929) featured a *rônin* who aids a group of farmers in their revolt against corrupt government officials, while contemporary-set tendency films include **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Metropolitan Symphony* (*Tokai kôkyôkyoku*, 1929), which depicted rivalry between a bourgeois and proletarian family; *A Living Doll* (*Ikeru ningyô*, 1929), directed by **Uchida Tomu**; Suzuki Shigeyoshi's *What Made Her Do It?* (*Nani ga kanojo o sô sasetaka*, 1930), about an impoverished girl sent to an orphanage after being forced by circumstances to commit arson (the film was considered lost until a partially complete copy was rediscovered in 1994 in the Gosfilm archives in Moscow); and Sawata Junsuke's *The Missing Ball* (*Mari no yukue*, 1930), whose story revolved around a schoolgirl ostracized by her classmates due to her humble background who later triumphs at her school athletics meet.

The tendency film fell rapidly out of favor during the rising militaristic and anticommunist tide of the early 1930s, with the brutal death of the proletarian writer Kobayashi Takiji in 1933 while in police custody seen as marking the end of the genre. However, traces of its ideology could still be found in later titles such as **Mizoguchi Kenji's** *Osaka Elegy* (*Naniwa erejî*, 1936), whose distribution was temporarily suspended until the Ministry of Affairs allowed the film to be released intact.

TERAYAMA SHÛJI (寺山修司, 1935–1983). A central figure among the various avant-garde arts movements that emerged in Tokyo's Shinjuku district during the 1960s, Terayama Shûji was a poet, novelist, songwriter, playwright, and stage director who also became involved in filmmaking around the same time as the directors associated with the **Japanese New Wave**. He wrote scripts for **Shinoda Masahiro**, including the early works *Dry Lake* (*Kawaita mizuumi*, 1960), *Tears on the Lion's Mane* (*Namida o, shishi no tategami ni*, 1962) and his later *Buraikan* (1970), and for **Hani Susumu's** coproduction with the **Art Theater Guild** (ATG), *Nanami: Inferno of First Love* (*Hatsukoi: Jigoku-hen*, 1968), as well as coming up with the treatment

for the same director's *Africa Story* (*Afurika monogatari*, 1981), shot on location in Kenya and starring James Stewart.

Terayama's cinema drew upon his productions through his *Tenjô Sajiki* theatrical troupe, established in 1967, and were characterized by a flamboyantly grotesque visual aesthetic that drew upon folkloric traditions, with meandering, dreamlike narratives often containing Freudian overtones and motifs of incest and youthful rebellion. Aside from a number of experimental short works such as *The Cage* (*Ori*, 1962), his films include *Emperor Tomato Ketchup* (*Tomato ketchapu tantei*, 1971), which posited a fascist military coup undertaken by children; *Throw Away Your Books, Let's Go into the Streets* (*Sho o suteyo, machi e deyô*, 1971), a fragmentary non-narrative feature about teenage rebellion among Tokyo high-school students; and *Pastoral: To Die in the Country* (*Denen ni Shisu*, 1974), a dreamlike portrait of a 15-year-old boy student in the country that was based on Terayama's recollections of his own childhood and took its title from a collection of his *tanka* poetry published in 1965. The latter two were ATG productions, as was his final film, released after his premature death in 1987, *Farewell to the Ark* (*Saraba hakobune*, 1984), about forbidden love between two cousins in a small rural village.

In 1977, Terayama made his most conventional work, *The Boxer* (*Bokusâ*, 1977), for **Toei**. The international reputation he had established through overseas performances of his *Tenjô Sajiki* troupe led to the Japanese–French coproductions of the erotic films *The Grass Labyrinth* (*Kusa meikyû*, 1978), an exploration into a young man's Oedipal subconscious, based on a story by Izumi Kyôka, which was originally made as part of the omnibus film *Collections Privées* but released separately in Japan in a feature-length version in 1983, and *Fruits of Passion* (*Shina ningyô*, 1981), a quasi sequel to Just Jaeckin's sadomasochistic softcore sex film *The Story of O* (*Histoire d'O*, 1975), produced by Anatole Dauman (see *IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES*) and starring Klaus Kinski, set in a Shanghai brothel during the 1920s.

TESHIGAHARA HIROSHI (勅使河原宏, 1927–2001). Teshigahara Hiroshi is primarily known overseas as an **independent** filmmaker associated with the **Japanese New Wave**. However, after graduating in 1950 from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts, where he studied oil painting, film was just one of many artistic media in which he worked, with his other activities including painting, sculpture, ceramics, theater, and interior design.

Born in Tokyo in 1927, Teshigahara was the son of the founder of the modernist Sôgetsu School of *ikebana* flower arrangement, Teshigahara Sôfû (1900–1979). He began his career in the 1950s in **documentary**, working as an assistant to **Kamei Fumio** and making films that include *Tokyo 1958*, a portrait of the city realized in collaboration with directors including **Hani Su-**

sumu, Kawazu Yoshirô, and Matsuyama Zenzô (see TAKAMINE HIDEKO), in which **Donald Richie** makes a brief appearance, and *Ikebana* (*Sôfû to obu*: *ikebana*, 1957), which detailed the activities of his father's school, before moving into fiction. He is best known for his series of four films written by Abe Kôbô (1924–1993), a contemporary novelist and playwright whose absurdist parables have drawn comparisons with Franz Kafka, and scored by the composer **Takemitsu Tôru**. Both were members of the progressive arts club *Seiki*, which the director established during the 1950s with the aim of bringing together artists from various contemporary creative disciplines.

All four collaborations were circulated internationally and were noted for their cryptic narratives and avant-garde approach to sound and set design. *Pitfall* (*Otoshiana*, 1962), an enigmatic murder mystery–ghost story set in a poor mining community, won Teshigahara the NHK Award for Best New Director, while *Woman in the Dunes* (*Suna no onna*, 1964), which depicts the symbiotic relationship between an entomologist from Tokyo and the woman who lives in the giant sandpit in which he becomes entrapped during an insect-hunting foray, received the Jury Special Prize at the 1964 Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the same year's Academy Awards. *The Face of Another* (*Tanin no kao*, 1966) tells the story of a man who finds his personality and his relationship to society changing after his face is disfigured beyond recognition in an industrial accident and he receives a new one, while *The Ruined Map* (*Moetsukita chizu*, 1968) is about a private detective whose character begins to resemble that of the missing man he is hired to find.

Teshigahara's first feature made without Abe's involvement was *Summer Soldiers* (*Samâ sorujâ*, 1972), scripted by John Nathan, a translator whose writings on Japan include a biography of **Mishima Yukio**. The film portrays an American deserter shunted around Japan from family to family by anti-Vietnam War sympathizers and was Teshigahara's last for over a decade, as he focused his attention on other artistic activities. In 1980, he became the third *iemoto* of the Sôgetsu School following the death of his father. He returned to filmmaking with the documentary *Antonio Gaudi* (*Antoniô Gaudí*, 1984), about the celebrated Catalan architect, and a dramatization of the life of the 16th-century master of the tea ceremony, *Rikyu* (*Rikyû*, 1989). His final work was the historical feature *Princess Go* (*Gô-hime*, 1992).

TEZUKA OSAMU (手塚治虫, 1928–1989). Tezuka Osamu is considered the father of the modern *manga* and a crucial figure in the commercialization of *anime* during the 1960s. His company, Mushi Pro (taking his name from the “mu” character for “insect” in Tezuka's first name), produced popular animated television serials featuring characters from his comics, including Japan's first

TV animation and the first *anime* to be broadcast in the United States, *Astro Boy* (*Tetsuwan Atomu*, 1963–1966, with a domestically produced film version distributed by **Nikkatsu** in 1964, and a number of new series produced subsequently), and *Kimba the White Lion* (*Janguru taitei*, 1965–1967, with a theatrical version directed by Yamamoto Eiichi released in 1966), held by many to be the inspiration behind Walt Disney's *The Lion King* (Roger Allers, 1994). It also produced a number of more artistically ambitious theatrical works that were critically, though not commercially, well received.

Tezuka first made his name in 1947, at the age of 20, with his first *manga*, the 200-page *New Treasure Island* (*Shin Takarajima*), inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel. Taking his inspiration from cinematic sources, both the French and German films he had seen as a child, and the animated works of Walt Disney and the Fleischer brothers, rather than from other existing comic publications of the era, Tezuka's revolutionary style introduced close-ups, different frame sizes, *katakana* sound effects, and lengthy action sequences sometimes spread across a number of pages. Over the next 40 years, the prolific artist went on to create a plethora of well-known works in a similar vein, many of which have been published in English-language versions.

Numerous television, **OVA**, and feature films have been made of his work: His *manga* series *Black Jack* (*Burakku Jakku*), which detailed the adventures of a renegade physician and ran between 1973 and 1983, was adapted in a 10-episode OVA series directed by Dezaki Osamu and released between 1993 and 2000, with a theatrical spin-off released by **Shochiku** in 1996 and another TV series running from 2000 to 2006 directed by Tezuka's own son Makoto (usually spelled Macoto Tezka, 1961–), followed by the feature *Black Jack: The Two Doctors of Darkness* (*Burakku Jakku: Futari no kuroi isha*), distributed by **Toho** in 2005. The self-contained stories in the 12-volume *Phoenix* (*Hi no tori*, 1967–1988) inspired *Firebird: Daybreak Chapter* (*Hi no tori*, 1978), a live-action *jidai-geki* directed by **Ichikawa Kon** that included animated sequences by Tezuka himself, as well as the science fiction animation *Phoenix 2772* (*Hi no tori 2772: Ai no kosumozôn*, 1980), directed by Sugiyama Taku, and Rintarô's *Phoenix: Karma Chapter* (*Hi no tori: hôô-hen*, 1986). Rintarô also made *Metropolis* (*Metoroporisu*, 2001), from Tezuka's 1949 *manga* inspired by Fritz Lang's 1927 film of the same name. Other live-action films based on his stories include **Ring** director **Nakata Hideo**'s *The Sleeping Bride* (*Garasu no nô*, 2000), a modern-day reworking of the *Sleeping Beauty* fairytale, and Shiota Akihiko's period fantasy *Dororo* (2007).

Tezuka first became directly involved in the *anime* industry when he worked on *Journey to the West* (*Saiyûki*, 1960), the third feature-length color animation produced by Toei Animation (see TOEI COMPANY). It was an adaptation of his 1952 publication *My Songoku* (*Boku no Songokû*), based on

the 16th-century classic of Chinese literature *Journey to the West* (*Xiyouji*) by Wu Cheng'en, which recounted the adventures of a young priest traveling to India charged to bring back Buddhist sutras to China, assisted by a monkey, a gluttonous pig-man, and a fallen monk. As a child Tezuka had been inspired by an early version of the tale, *Princess Iron Fan* (*Tie shan gong zhu*, 1941), the first feature-length animation produced in China, which had been directed by the brothers Wan Guchan and Wan Laiming and had screened in Japan in 1942. Tezuka's new version won the Special Grand Award at the Venice International Children's Film Festival and was distributed overseas in a redubbed edit entitled *Alakazam the Great*. It remained, however, his only directing credit at the studio, although he wrote the scripts for *Arabian Nights: The Adventures of Sinbad* (*Arabian Naito: Shindobaddo no bôken*, Yabushita Taiji, 1962), and *Doggy March* (*Wan wan Chûshingura*, 1963), a canine version of the oft-filmed story of *The Loyal 47 Ronin*, directed by Shirakawa Daisaku (see *CHÛSHINGURA*).

Tezuka left Toei Animation to found his own company, Mushi Pro, in 1963, which, aside from producing the popular television animations *Astro Boy*, *Kimba the White Lion*, and *Princess Knight* (*Ribon no kishi*, 1967–1968), the adventures of a fairytale princess who masquerades as a man, he also produced works that strove to push animation in a more artistic direction. These include the poetic eight-minute short *Mermaid* (*Ningyo*, 1964) and two films that went on to win the newly established *Mainichi Shinbun Ôfuji Noburô* Award for excellence in animation: *Tale of a Street Corner* (*Aru machi kado no monogatari*, 1962, produced by Tezuka but actually realized by Yamamoto Eiichi and Sakamoto Yûsaku) and *Pictures at an Exhibition* (*Tenrankai no e*, 1966). Mushi Pro later encountered financial problems when its *Animerama* series, a trilogy of more experimental and artistic features aimed at adult audiences, failed to find an audience. The films, *A Thousand and One Nights* (*Senya ichiya monogatari*, 1969), *Cleopatra* (*Kureopatora*, 1970), and *Tragedy of Belladonna* (*Kanashimi no Beradona*, 1973), based on Jules Michelet's 1862 study of witchcraft, *La Sorcière*, were made in conjunction with the film production company Nihon Herald and directed by Yamamoto Eiichi, with Tezuka also working on the first two titles. After the financial failure of the third film led to the bankruptcy of his company in 1973, Tezuka retreated back to the world of *manga*.

He returned to animation through his company Tezuka Productions, established in 1968 as a distinct enterprise from Mushi Pro, and during the 1980s directed such idiosyncratic short works as *Jumping* (1984), a series of scenes portrayed from the viewpoint of a large beast as it leaps from location to location; *Broken Down Film* (*Onboroshi firumu*, 1985), a parody of a silent Western in which a cowboy's attempts to rescue a damsel in distress are con-

tinuously thwarted by the scratches and jump-cuts of the film; and *Legend of the Forest* (*Mori no densetsu Part-I*, 1987), a portrait of the animal denizens of a woodland under threat from the incursions of humankind.

Since Tezuka's death of stomach cancer in 1989, his company has continued to operate under the supervision of his son, Tezuka Makoto, who, aside from working on animated adaptations of his father's work, has worked prodigiously in 8mm experimental film (*jikken eiga*) since the late 1970s and more recently directed the features *The Innocent* (*Bakuchi*, 1999), starring **Asano Tadanobu**, and *Black Kiss* (*Burakku kisu*, 2004), a psychological thriller set around the members of an agency for half-Japanese models.

TOEI COMPANY (TÔEI KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東映株式会社). Toei is the most recently established of the "Big Five" major film production and distribution companies surviving from the Second Golden Age (*Ôgon jidai*) of Japanese cinema. Initially founded on 1 October 1949 as Tokyo Motion Picture Distribution (*Tôkyô Eiga Haikyû*, the name *Tôei* derives from the first two characters of *Tôkyô Eiga*), the company was officially formed on 31 March 1951 after absorbing the smaller companies Tôyoko Eiga, established on 8 June 1938 as a subsidiary of Tôyoko Railway Company (*Tôkyô Yokohama Dentetsu*), and Ôizumi Eiga, founded on 15 October 1947 as a rental studio operating from the former premises of Shinkô Kinema in Tokyo.

After the **war**, Tôyoko Eiga possessed a handful of cinemas in Tokyo. After many of its core staff former members returned to Japan from the **Manchuria Film Association**, it entered production with Inagaki Hiroshi's *My Heart Is Like the Moon* (*Kokoro tsuki no gotoku*, 1947), filmed at the Uzumasa studios in Kyoto (established originally by Nikkatsu in 1927, though at this time owned by **Daiei**, which also distributed Tôyoko Eiga's titles). Ôizumi Eiga began production in 1948 with *Gate of Flesh* (*Nikutai no mon*, 1948), Makino Masahiro's adaptation of Tamura Taijirô's novel about postwar prostitution (later filmed by **Suzuki Seijun**), which was distributed by **Toho**. Both companies subsequently entered a distribution agreement with Tokyo Motion Picture Distribution after it was founded in 1949, and released works including *A Woman's Face* (*Onna no kao*, Imai Tadashi, 1949), *Tokyo Wanderer* (*Tôkyô mushuku*, Chiba Yasuki, 1950), and *Escape from Prison* (*Datsugoku*, Yamamoto Kajirô, 1950) from Ôizumi Eiga; and *Island of Horrors* (*Gokumon-jima*, Matsuda Sadatsugu, 1949, 2 parts), starring Kataoka Chiezô, and a two-part version of *Les Misérables: Ah, Merciless* (*Re Mizeraburu: Â, mujô*, 1950), from Tôyoko Eiga, with the first part, *God and Devil* (*Kami to akuma*), directed by Itô Daisuke, and the second, *Flag of Love and Liberty* (*Ai to jiyû no hata*), by Makino Masahiro (see also HAYAKAWA SESSUE).

After the two companies were absorbed to form Toei, Ôkawa Hiroshi (1896–1971) of the Tôyoko Railway Company was appointed president, with Makino Mitsuo (1909–1957; son of film pioneer **Makino Shôzô** and brother of director Makino Masahiro) following him from Tôyoko Eiga to become head of production, a role later assumed by Okada Shigeru upon Makino's death. Maintaining studios in both Kyoto and Tokyo, Toei initially produced films, mainly in the *jidai-geki* genre, to be released on double bills, a mode of exhibition that became commonplace during the 1950s, as the other companies soon followed its lead. At the beginning, the company was fortunate to have a number of major stars who began their careers in the silent heyday of period drama, including Kataoka Chiezô, Ichikawa Utaemon, and Tsukigata Ryûnosuke, who appeared in new versions of the genre's key stories, films that include *Mito Komon's Pleasure Trip* (*Mito Kômon man'yûki*, 1952, two parts) and *Daibosatsu Pass* (*Daibosatsu tôge*, 1953, three parts), both directed by Watanabe Kunio; Matsuda Sadatsugu's *Sazen Tange* (*Tange Sazen*, 1952); Sasaki Yasushi's *Chuji's Travel Diary: First Meeting on the Road* (*Chûji tabi nikki: Aizome dôchû*, 1952); and Hagiwara Ryô's *Ako Castle* (*Akô-jô*, 1952), the first film version of the **Chûshingura** legend produced since the war.

In 1954 alone, the company made 104 films, and though much of its output during the decade can be considered undistinguished, it did produce more prestigious works, including several films by **Uchida Tomu**, who worked at the studio between 1955 and 1968, and a number of socially conscious nonperiod films by Imai Tadashi, including *Tower of Lilies* (*Himeyuri no tô*, 1953), based on the true event of a group of Okinawan nurses who sacrificed themselves during the American invasion of the islands during the war; *Rice* (*Kome*, 1957), which depicted the life of farmers in a similar manner to Uchida's prewar work *Earth* (*Tsuchi*, 1939); and *A Story of Pure Love* (*Jun'ai monogatari*, 1957), a romance set in the postwar period featuring a girl in a reformatory who is slowly dying of radiation sickness due to the **atomic bombing** of Hiroshima.

Generally, however, Toei's output consisted of cheaply produced program pictures that exploited the double- or triple-bill format, targeted at male, blue-collar audiences, to distinguish it from its rivals (for example, the family-oriented works made at **Shochiku**, the youth pictures of **Nikkatsu**, or the fantasy-based genre films of **Shintoho**). With the declining popularity of *jidai-geki* at cinemas in the 1960s after the field became a staple of television dramas, the company looked toward new genres and soon became known for its **yakuza** films. Though Toei had made films in this genre before, the huge box office success of Sawashima Tadashi's *Theater of Life* (*Jinsei gekijô: Hishakaku*, 1963) was followed by the company creating its own popular subgenre, which became known as *ninkyô eiga* ("chivalry films"), steered

by Shundô Kôji (1916–2001), who worked under Okada as a producer from 1962. Shundô was responsible for some of the genre's most popular series, starring actors including Tsuruta Kôji (1924–1987), **Takakura Ken**, and Tanba Tetsurô, while his own daughter, Fuji Junko, became the first female star of the studio's *ninkyô* films, starring in the *Red Peony Gambler* (*Hibotan bakuto*) series that ran from 1968 to 1972, with the first of its eight episodes directed by Yamashita Kôzaku.

During the 1960s, Toei's more significant directors included the industry veteran Makino Masahiro; Katô Tai, who directed a number of the *Red Peony Gambler* entries, with his non-yakuza titles including the supernatural period drama *Ghost of Oiwa* (*Kaidan Oiwa no bôrei*, 1961) (see HORROR); and Ishii Teruo, formerly of Shintoho, whose best work included the 10-film action series *Abashiri Prison* (*Abashiri bangaichi*, 1965–1967), starring Takakura. As the popularity of *ninkyô eiga* declined, Ishii played a major role in steering the company's output toward the *ero guro*/exploitation market with a number of omnibus films that lavishly re-created the tortures of various historical periods, including *Joys of Torture* (*Tokugawa onna keibatsu-shi*, 1968) and *Meiji Era, Taisho Era, Showa Era: Bizarre Woman Crime History* (*Meiji Taishô Shôwa: ryôki onna hanzai-shi*, 1969), as well as films like the bizarre *Horrors of Malformed Men* (*Kyôfu kikei ningen*, 1969), adapted from a story by **Edogawa Rampo**.

During the 1970s, in an attempt to maintain a share of the market against the rival company Nikkatsu's **Roman Porno** and following the lead of Ishii Teruo, directors such as Suzuki Norifumi, Nakajima Sadao, and Noda Yukio made a number of works that increased the levels of nudity and violence. Suzuki directed *The Insatiable* (*Tokugawa sekkusu kinshi-rei: Shikijô daimyô*, 1972), in which French actress Sandra Jullien plays a foreign concubine brought to the harem of a lusty *daimyô* during the Edo era, and *School of the Holy Beast* (*Seijû gakuen*, 1974), set in a Catholic nunnery. Toei is also known for a genre of contemporary-set action-based films, often featuring the actresses Ike Reiko and Sugimoto Miki as delinquent girl gang members, which later became referred to as Pinky Violence. Its titles included *Girl Boss Guerrilla* (*Sukeban gerira*, 1972), *Terrifying Girls' High School: Lynch Law Classroom* (*Kyôfu joshikôkô: Bôkô rinchi kyôshitsu*, 1972), *Girl Boss: Reform School Breakout* (*Sukeban: Kankain dassô*, Nakajima Sadao, 1973), and *Sex and Fury* (*Furyô ane goten: Inonoshika ochô*, 1973). The term has also been used to refer to the *Female Convict Scorpion* series (*Joshû Sasori*, 1972–1973) featuring **Kaji Meiko**, as well as other Toei productions such as *Zero Woman: Red Handcuffs* (*0-ka no onna: Akai tejô*, Noda Yukio, 1974), featuring Sugimoto Miki as an undercover cop sent to rescue the kidnapped daughter of a politician.

Toei also maintained its output of more straightforward action films such as *Golgo 13* (*Gorugo 13*, 1973) and *Bullet Train* (*Shinkansen daibakuha*, 1975), both directed by Satô Junya and starring Takakura, and further entries in the *yakuza* field, which was given a new lease on life by **Fukasaku Kinji's** *jitsuroku* ("true record") takes on the genre, typified by *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Jingi naki tatakai*, 1973), which spawned four immediate sequels released until 1974, and a further three *New Battles Without Honor and Humanity* titles released between 1974 and 1976. The *yakuza* film remained a consistent part of Toei's production over the ensuing decades.

The subsidiary Toei Central Film was established in 1977 to produce lower budget films to maintain the supply of the company's films to smaller contracted theaters that could not afford its bigger budget releases. The first such title was Murakawa Tôru's *The Most Dangerous Game* (*Mottomo kiken na yûgi*, 1978), inaugurating a series of films with the action star Matsuda Yûsaku (see KADOKAWA HARUKI). The company also released **Ishii Sôgo's** biker movie *Crazy Thunder Road* (*Kuruizaki sandâ rôdo*, 1980), Oguri Kôhei's *Muddy River* (*Doro no kawa*, 1981), and **Wakamatsu Kôji's** *A Pool Without Water* (*Mizu no nai pôru*, 1982), as well as a number of **pink films**, including Yamamoto Shinya's *Sacrificial Women* (*Ikenie no onnatachi*, 1978), featuring the American porn star Harry Reems. The company was dissolved in 1988.

Subsidiary companies still in existence include Toei Animation (*Tôei Dôga*, although the Japanese name for the company was changed to *Tôei Animêshon* in 1998), established in 1956, after the company purchased the studio Japan Animated Films (*Nihon Dôga Eiga*, originally founded in 1948 and renamed *Nichidô Eiga* in 1952); Toei Television Production (*Tôei Terebi Purodakushon*), established in 1958; and Toei Video (*Tôei Bideo*), established in 1970. Toei Animation (see *ANIME*) was responsible for Japan's first feature-length color animation, *Legend of the White Serpent* (*Hakujaden*, Yabushita Taiji, 1958), and is still active to this day in film, television, and **OVA** production. Toei Television Production is also known for its **tokusatsu** superhero programs for younger audiences, many of which have been subsequently edited together for cinema release or have spawned theatrical spin-offs. Toei Video specializes in the distribution of theatrical film, animation, **documentaries**, and television serials on "soft" media such as video and DVD. In 1986, it began the production of OVA and in 1989 inaugurated its **V-Cinema** line for straight-to-video live-action releases.

With the declining fortunes of the industry in the 1980s, Toei reduced production and took to distributing more and more works made out of house, such as a number of films produced by Kadokawa Haruki, including Sômai Shinji's *Sailor Suit and Machine Gun* (*Sêrâ fuku to kikanjû*, 1981), Fukasaku

Kinji's *Legend of Eight Samurai* (*Satomi Hakkenden*, 1983), and Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's *The Little Girl Who Conquered Time* (*Toki o kakeru shôjo*, 1983).

Outside of the field of animation, significant domestic releases in the new millennium have included Fukasaku Kinji's *Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, 2000) and its sequel, *Battle Royale II: Requiem* (*Batoru rowaiaru II: Chinkonka*, 2003); Nakano Hiroyuki's colorful pastiche of Ninja films, *Red Shadow: Akakage* (2001); Yukisada Isao's *GO* (2001), about a *zainichi* high-school student; *Half a Confession* (*Han-ochi*, Sasabe Kiyoshi, 2003), a courtroom drama about a man charged for the assisted suicide of his Alzheimer's-suffering wife; *Zebraman* (*Zeburâman*, 2004), **Miike Takashi's** affectionate homage to *tokusatsu* movies; *Kamen Rider: The First* (*Kamen Raidô: THE FIRST*, Nagaishi Takao, 2005) and *Kamen Rider: The Next* (*Kamen Raidô: THE NEXT*, Tasaki Ryûta, 2007), throwbacks to the heyday of the superhero genre based on the masked *manga* character first established on television in the early 1970s; and Sono Shion's horror-comedy *Exte* (*Ekusute*, 2007), about killer hair extensions.

TOHO COMPANY (TÔHÔ KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東宝株式会社).

Toho is Japan's largest entertainment corporation, active in the fields of cinema, theater, television, video, music, video games, and other related areas, with film production, distribution, and exhibition counting for almost half of its revenues. A core component of the Hankyu Hanshin Toho Group conglomerate, in 2008 its revenues represented 38 percent of the entire film market in Japan, distributing eight of the year's top ten highest-grossing domestic titles through its chain of 554 screens, making it also the country's largest exhibitor, according to statistics published by the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan. It is particularly strong in the field of *anime* distribution, with the works of **Studio Ghibli** and the regular installments of children's series featuring perennially popular characters such as *Pokémon*, *Doraemon*, *Detective Conan* (*Meitantei Conan*), and *Crayon Shinchan* (*Kureyon Shinchan*), released during the holiday season, regularly appearing among the years' highest grossers. Many of its recent live-action successes have been television tie-ins.

Toho traces its roots back to 1932, when railroad entrepreneur and president of the Hankyu Railway (*Hankyû Densetsu*) company Kobayashi Ichizô (1873–1957) established the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater, a venue to showcase his all-female musical Takarazuka Revue troupe (established by Kobayashi in 1913 and named after the town of Takarazuka in Hyôgô Prefecture, where it originated, it is still a profitable subsidiary of the larger organization to this day). Over the next few years, Kobayashi constructed and acquired a number of further grandiose, high-class venues in central Tokyo, and as a theater pro-

moter and film exhibitor presented the first serious rival to **Shochiku** in the field of family entertainment. In 1935, Kobayashi acquired exclusive rights to screen the popular Osaka Mainichi Talkie Newsreels as part of his programs, and in June 1936 he founded Toho Film Distribution Company to distribute the films of two smaller companies, both specializing in sound film production, Photo Chemical Laboratories (P.C.L.) and J.O. Studios, as well as major Hollywood studio productions and European films imported by **Kawakita Nagamasa** of Towa Trading Partnership. The company, whose name derived from the first characters of Tokyo (*tô* meaning “East”) and Takarazuka (*hō*, the phonetic reading of *takara*, meaning treasure), thus aggressively pitched itself as a modernizing force in the industry.

P.C.L. had been founded in Tokyo in 1929 by Uemura Yasuji, recently returned from studying photographic processing in Germany. The company was originally established for laboratory and postproduction work, though it soon began experimenting with on-location sound recording techniques, receiving financial backing from companies including Meiji Confectionary and Dai-Nippon Beer, as well as from Kobayashi, to make advertising films. Following Shochiku and **Nikkatsu**’s experiments with talkies, on 25 October 1932, P.C.L. opened two rental sound stages, producing its first feature, Kimura Sotoji’s *Musical Comedy: Intoxicated Life* (*Ongaku kigeki: Horoyoi jinsei*), in 1933. Sponsored by Dai-Nippon Beer, this celebration of the joys of drinking counts as Japanese cinema’s first musical. The company’s focus on such productions and filmed vaudeville shows meant that its performing talent originally was mainly drawn from the stage, with the popular **benshi** Tokugawa Musei starring in this first feature and many subsequent ones. The company made nine films in 1934, 17 in 1935, and 25 in 1936, with titles including the early sync-sound animation *Fox and Raccoon Cheat Each Other* (*Ugokie korino tatehiki*, Ôishi Ikuo, 1933); a number of films by **Naruse Mikio**; and many works by lesser-known directors such as Okada Kei, Yagura Shigeo, and Kimura Sotoji. Particularly popular was the series starring Enomoto Kenichi, a comedian referred to affectionately by the public as Enoken, which began with *Enoken’s Youthful Liquor Margin* (*Enoken no seishun suikoden*), directed by Yamamoto Kajirô in 1934.

J.O. Studios was founded in February 1933 in Kyoto, initially solely as a rental sound studio, by Ôsawa Yoshio (1902–1966), a representative of the American Bell and Howell camera and German Agfa film companies. It began production in 1934 and became Japan’s first company to devote its resources exclusively to sound films, at a time when over half of the country’s output was still silent. Its most significant production was the German–Japanese collaboration *Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*, 1937).

In September 1937, with the Japanese government restricting the number of foreign film imports following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of the same year, Kobayashi amalgamated P.C.L., J.O. Studios, and Toho Film Distribution Company to form Toho Film Company, and committed itself to production. Now possessing sound studios in Tokyo and Kyoto and, by 1938, a chain of 27 theaters nationwide, half of which boasted capacities of between 1,500 and 2,000 seats, the new company, with Uemura as president, Ôsawa as an executive, and Kobayashi as a consultant, rapidly expanded to present a major rival to Shochiku and the ailing Nikkatsu. Much of Toho's early success can be attributed to head of production Iwao Mori (1899–1979), a former scriptwriter who had worked at a number of companies, including Nikkatsu, and had been involved in the establishment of P.C.L., where he introduced the producer-based system, modeled on the production methods of Hollywood's major studios that he had studied during a trip to America, in which directors and performers were recruited on short-term contracts rather than bound to the studio.

The company continued poaching acting and directing talent from other companies with a new ruthlessness and soon boasted such star names as Irie Takako (*see* WOMEN), Kosugi Isamu, **Hara Setsuko**, and **Takamine Hideko**, and directors including Makino Masahiro and **Nakagawa Nobuo** from the Makino Talkie company (1935–1937; *see* MAKINO SHÔZÔ); **Kinugasa Teinosuke** and Shimazu Yasujirô from Shochiku; and Abe Yutaka, **Yamanaka Sadao**, and Watanabe Kunio from Nikkatsu. Such methods earned the company few friends and resulted in the infamous Hasegawa Incident of 12 November 1937, when the actor known by the stage name Hayashi Chôjirô was attacked by a thug with a razor after announcing he was leaving Shochiku for Toho, where he subsequently appeared under his real name, **Hasegawa Kazuo**. Hasegawa was one of the many performers who appeared in Toho's star-studded version of *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (*Chûshingura*, Takizawa Eisuke and Yamamoto Kajirô) in 1939, alongside the former Nikkatsu *jidai-geki* actor Ôkôchi Denjirô (*see* CHÛSHINGURA).

Toho was more accommodating than most in acting in accordance with the government's **wartime** policies, laid out in the **Film Law** of 1939, with much of the company's work during this period being of an increasingly propagandist nature, although the filmmaker **Kamei Fumio** offered some tacit resistance in his **documentary** works. Among the better-regarded titles from this period are Yamamoto's films *Horse* (*Uma*, 1941), a drama starring Takamine, and *The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya* (*Hawai-Marê oki kaisen*, 1942), renowned for its stunning re-creation of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by special effects artist **Tsuburaya Eiji**, who had joined Toho by way of J.O. Studios as a camera operator in 1935, as well as the debut feature of

Yamamoto's former assistant **Kurosawa Akira**, *Sanshiro Sugata* (*Sugata Sanshirô*, 1943). Toho also financed a number of films shot in China starring Ri Kôran (see YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO), including Watanabe Kunio's *Vow in the Desert* (*Nessa no chikai*, 1940) and Fushimizu Osamu's *China Nights* (*Shina no yoru*, 1940), while continuing its series of films starring the comedian Enoken, a lighter side to its output that dwindled, with the government discouraging such frivolous material after the commencement of hostilities with the United States.

In 1943, when the government restructured the industry, a number of smaller companies founded in the 1930s, whose works had been distributed by Toho, including Tokyo Hassei, Nan-ô Eiga, and Taihō Eiga (formerly Kyokutō Eiga), were merged into the larger company, which was reorganized under the name Toho Company, by which it is known today. Production levels for the entire industry, which aside from Toho now consisted of only Shochiku and **Daiei** in the field of fictional filmmaking, were restricted due to shortages of raw film stock and doubts about the efficiency of film propaganda. By the end of the war, much of Toho's chain of 120 theaters had been destroyed in Allied bombing raids, and before the Occupation forces landed, orders were given to burn all negatives and existing prints of the more insidious propaganda films, the Philippines-set *Shoot That Flag* (*Ano hata o ute: Corehidōru no saigo*, Abe Yutaka, 1944) and *Believe That Others Will Follow* (*Ato ni tsuzuku o shinzu*, Watanabe Kunio, 1945). Ōsawa and Uemura were classified as Class A war criminals and permanently expelled from the industry, while Mori and Towa's Kawakita were listed as Class B offenders and temporarily suspended.

In the immediate postwar era, following the Occupation policy of encouraging labor unions, Toho was hit by a series of strikes, and 10 of the company's top stars (Fujita Susumu, Hanai Ranko, **Hara Setsuko**, **Hasegawa Kazuo**, Irie Takako, Kurokawa Yatarō, Ōkochi Denjirō, **Takamine Hideko**, Yamada Isuzu, and Yamane Toshiko), the directors Abe Yutaka and Watanabe Kunio, and 445 other studio employees left to form **Shintoho**. Ironically, the purges of suspected communists subsequently ordered under General Douglas MacArthur's regime in 1950 resulted in more staff members leaving the company, including the director **Yamamoto Satsuo** (see INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION). By the 1950s, however, it had regained its dominant position, with Kawakita's Towa Trading Partnership absorbed into the company and renamed the Toho-Towa Company in 1951 to continue importing Toho's foreign releases, a major source of the company's revenues to this day.

During the Golden Age of Japanese cinema, the company released films in a variety of genres: *jidai-geki* such as Kurosawa's ***Seven Samurai*** (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954) and Inagaki Hiroshi's *Samurai* trilogy (*Miyamoto*

Musashi, 1954–1956); literary adaptations such as Toyoda Shirô's *Snow Country* (*Yukiguni*, 1957); melodramas such as Naruse Mikio's *Mother* (*Okaasan*, 1952) and *The Sound of the Mountain* (*Yama no oto*, 1954); musicals such as *Woman of Shanghai* (*Shanghai no onna*, Inagaki Hiroshi, 1952); war films such as Honda's *Eagle of the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô no washi*, 1953) and Matsubayashi Shûei's *Storm Over the Pacific* (*Hawai Middouei daikaikûsen: Taiheiyô no arashi*, 1960); *kaijû eiga* and *tokusatsu* science fiction titles such as **Honda Ishirô's** *Godzilla* (*Gojira*, 1954), *The Mysterians* (*Chikyû bôeigun*, 1957), and *Battle in Outer Space* (*Uchû Daisensô*, 1959); fantasy films such as *The Three Treasures* (*Nihon tanjô*, Inagaki Hiroshi, 1959) and Yamamoto's 1959 remake of his own *The Monkey King* (*Songokû*, 1940); and family films such as Aoyagi Nobuo's *Sazae-san* in 1956, the first in a series based on one of Japan's longest-running comic strips, about an everyday contemporary family, created by Hasegawa Machiko in 1946 and originally published in the *Fukunichi Shinbun* newspaper.

Toho reacted to the rise of television ownership by adopting the proprietary TohoScope widescreen format in 1957, in the same year also participating in the formation of Fuji Television with Shochiku and Daiei, and entering into television production not long after. It also played a major role in the establishment of the **Art Theatre Guild** on 15 November 1961. Like the other major studios, however, the audience figures for its product declined considerably throughout the 1960s, and it slimmed down production accordingly. Lavish productions such as those by Kurosawa became too costly to realize, and the director made his final film at the studio, *Red Beard* (*Aka-hige*), in 1965, although Okamoto Kihachi, a former assistant director at the studio who had made his debut in 1958 with *All About Marriage* (*Kekkon no subete*), emerged as one of the more notable new talents in the *jidai-geki* field, with films including *Samurai* (1965), *Sword of Doom* (*Daibosatsu tôge*, 1966), and *Kill!* (*Kiru*, 1968), as well as a number of war films.

Many of the company's better known titles from this period were in the **horror** or *kaijû eiga* genres, including the numerous sequels to Honda's *Godzilla*. Other popular titles include a series of musicals featuring the members of the jazz band Hana Hajime and The Crazy Cats, with entries including Furusawa Kengo's *Japanese Age of Irresponsibility* (*Nippon musekinin jidai*, 1962) and *Operation Crazy* (*Kurêji daisakusen*, 1966), and the similar *Young Guy* (*Wakadaishô*) series, starring another popular singing star (and son of actor Uehara Ken), Kayama Yûzô, which began with *Young Guy at University* (*Daigaku no wakadaishô*, Sugie Toshio, 1961); other entries include *Young Guy in Ginza* (*Ginza no wakadaishô*, Sugie Toshio, 1962), *Young Guy in Hawaii* (*Hawai no wakadaishô*, Fukuda Jun, 1962), *Young Guy in the Alps* (*Arupusu no wakadaishô*, Furusawa Kengo, 1966), and *Young Guy in Rio* (*Rio no*

wakadaishô, Iwauchi Katsuki, 1966). As such titles suggest, films set abroad were a particularly popular feature of the Japanese box office in an era when the postwar ban on overseas travel had just been lifted around the time of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Kayama also appeared in, among other such films, Chiba Yasuki's *Honolulu-Tokyo-Hong Kong* (*Honoruru-Tôkyô-Honkon*, 1963). The trend at Toho for films featuring Japanese characters overseas continued into the next decade, with films such as Kurahara Koreyoshi's *Two in the Amsterdam Rain* (*Ame no Amusuterudamu*, 1975).

Toho avoided the financial crises that beset Nikkatsu and Daiei in the early 1970s by restructuring into smaller divisions under a single umbrella company in 1972 and concentrating its output on big-budget, high-concept, Hollywood-style productions such as *Japan Sinks* (*Nihon chinbotsu*, Moritani Shirô, 1973) and *E.S.P./Spy* (*Esupai*, Fukuda Jun, 1974), both adapted from the best-selling science fiction novels of Komatsu Sakyô; **Masuda Toshio's** *Catastrophe 1999: The Prophecies of Nostradamus* (*Nosutoradamusu no daiyogen*, 1974); the *Star Wars*-inspired *The War in Space* (*Wakusei daisensô: THE WAR IN SPACE*, Fukuda Jun, 1977); a series of literary adaptations including **Kawabata Yasunari's** *The Izu Dancer* (*Izu no odoriko*, 1974) and **Mishima Yukio's** *The Sound of Waves* (*Shiosai*, 1975), directed by Ni-shikawa Katsumi and starring **Yamaguchi Momoe**; Ôbayashi Nobuhiko's horror movie *House* (*Hausu*, 1977), which recaptured a younger audience demographic believed lost to television and Hollywood; *Pink Lady: The Motion Picture* (*Pinku rêdî no katsudô daishashin*, Kotani Shûsei, 1978), a vehicle for the popular female singing duo of the title; and *Lady Oscar* (*Beru-saiyu no bara*, 1979), a live-action adaptation of Ikeda Riyoko's *The Rose of Versailles*, a hugely popular *shôjo manga* series set in the court of Louis XVI, directed by Jacques Demy and featuring a European cast.

Other big-budget productions less known overseas include *Mount Hak-koda* (*Hakkodasan*, Moritani Shirô, 1977), an epic adaptation by scriptwriter Hashimoto Shinobu of a novel by Nitta Jirô about an army training exercise in a freezing, inhospitable mountain environment that went disastrously wrong in 1902, and *Lake of Illusions* (*Maboroshi no mizuumi*, 1982), a curious hybrid of science fiction, murder mystery, *jidai-geki*, and **animal movie** directed by Hashimoto, who had been given free rein by the studio due to his impressive track record as a producer and writer of scripts, including Kurosawa's *Rashomon* (*Rashômon*, 1950), *Seven Samurai* (*Shichinin no samurai*, 1954), and *Throne of Blood* (*Kumonosu-jô*, 1957). The film's mammoth critical and commercial failure prompted Hashimoto to retire from the industry. Toho produced several more successful live-action animal movies, including Kurahara's *The Fox in the Quest of the Northern Sun* (*Kita kitsune monogatari*, 1978) and *Antarctica* (*Nankyoku monogatari*, 1983), the lat-

ter breaking domestic box-office records upon its original release. It also distributed **Ôshima Nagisa's** scandalous *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korîda*, 1976) in Japan and a number of *anime* titles, most notably Miyazaki Hayao's directing debut, *Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro* (*Rupan sansei: Kariosutoro no shiro*, 1979), based on the famous Lupin III *manga* character, who had already been featured in a 1974 live-action film from the studio, *Lupin III: Strange Psychokinetic Strategy* (*Rupan sansei: Nenrikichan sakusen*, Tsuboshima Takashi, 1974).

Theatrical *anime* releases produced by other studios, mainly television companies but also the animation house Studio Ghibli (following its establishment in 1985), became an increasingly important source of Toho's revenues during the 1980s and 1990s. In 1984, the company resurrected its lucrative *Godzilla* series with Hashimoto Kôji's *The Return of Godzilla*, but otherwise the majority of Toho's high-profile live-action releases were either financed or produced by other companies, as in the cases of Kurosawa's *Kagemusha* (1980) and *Ran* (1985) and Ichikawa's 1985 remake of his 1956 film *Harp of Burma* (*Biruma no tategoto*), which was produced by Fuji Television, even though Toho was the production company behind most of Ichikawa's films during this period and up until *The Village of Eight Gravestones* (*Yatsukahamura*) in 1996.

In 1998, Toho achieved a major hit with the comic police drama *Bayside Shakedown* (*Odoru daisôsasen*, Motohiro Katsuyuki). Produced by Fuji Television and a spin-off from an original television series originally broadcast in 1997, it was the fifth highest-grossing Japanese film of all time. Its sequel, *Bayside Shakedown 2*, performed even better, topping the domestic box office in 2003 to become the third most successful Japanese movie of all time, after Miyazaki Hayao's *Spirited Away* (*Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi*, 2001) and *Princess Mononoke* (*Mononoke-hime*, 1997), also released by Toho. Television tie-ins became a vital part of the company's release roster, with films including *Trick: The Movie* (*Torikku: Gekijô-ban*, Tsutsumi Yukihiko, 2002), depicting the surreal adventures of a pair of magicians-cum-detectives; *Sea Monkey* (*Umizaru*, Hasumi Eiichirô, 2004), about a scuba-diving coastal rescue team; *Crying Out Love, in the Center of the World* (*Sekai no chûshin de, ai o sakebu*, 2004), a sentimental romantic drama based on a novel by Katayama Kyôichi, directed by Yukisada Isao and starring Shibasaki Kô, which gave rise to a brief cinematic boom in "pure love" (*jun'ai*) love stories; *Hero* (2007), a comedy-drama directed by Suzuki Masayuki about an unconventional district attorney, played by Kimura Takuya of **SMAP**; and *Boys over Flowers: Final* (*Hana yori dango: Fainaru*, Ishii Yasuharu, 2008), the concluding part of a *Sex and the City*-style portrait of the romantic relationships of a young woman, based on a best-selling *shôjo manga* series by

Kamio Yôko published between 1992 and 2004 that led to both an animated and live-action television series.

Other noteworthy releases from Toho in the new millennium include **Takita Yôjirô's** *The Yin Yang Master* (*Onmyôji*, 2001) and its 2003 sequel; the films of **Nakashima Tetsuya**; *Train Man* (*Densha otoko*, Murakami Shôsuke, 2005), about a 22-year-old computer *otaku* who finds romance on a commuter train, based on a purportedly true story that was originally serialized on the Internet by Nakano Hitori and subsequently published in novel form and adapted for television and *manga*; *Nana* (Kentarô Ôtani, 2005), an adaptation of a *manga* by Ai Yazawa about two girls with identical names, one of whom wants to become a punk rock star, which led to a sequel in 2006; *Lorelei: The Witch of the Pacific Ocean* (*Rôrerai*, 2005), a revisionist war-time fantasy about a submarine with a secret weapon that thwarts an A-bomb attack on Tokyo, which was directed by Higuchi Shinji, who also remade *Japan Sinks* (*Nihon chinbotsu*) in 2006; *Always: Sunset on Third Street* (*Always san-chôme no yûhi*, 2005), a nostalgic drama set in the 1960s and directed by Yamazaki Takashi, with a sequel released in 2007; *The Magic Hour* (*Za majikku awâ*, 2008), a comedy directed by the comedian and playwright Mitani Kôki, about a gangster who, unable to find a real-life hitman, hires an actor to threaten the man conducting an affair with his wife; and *20th Century Boys* (*Nijusseiki shônén*, Tsutsumi Yukihiko, 2008), the first part in a trilogy based on the epic science fiction *manga* series by Urasawa Naoki. Such reliance on source material provided by well-established television series, novels, and *manga* has ensured both Toho's domestic dominance as well as its success in the Asian markets where they are known.

TOKIEDA TOSHIE (時枝俊江, 1929–). Tokieda Toshie is a prolific **documentary** filmmaker. Born in Pusan, Korea, in 1929, she entered the film world in 1950 when she began working part-time at Nichiei. After joining **Iwanami Productions** the following year as an assistant director, she made her directorial debut in 1953 with *Report on Nursery Schools* (*Yôjiseikatsudan no hôkoku*). She worked on over a hundred films at Iwanami and went freelance in 1984.

Tokieda has been honored with numerous awards throughout her career; *Edo Life Recollected in Drawings: Kichizaemon and the Townspeople* (*Ezu ni shinobu edo no kurashi: Kichizaemon-san to machi no hitobito*, 1977), *Literary Figures of Bunkyo: About Kanchoro* (*Bunkyo yukari no bunjintachi: Kanchorô o megutte*, 1988), and *I Hate Hospitals: Networks Supporting Home Care for the Elderly* (*Byôin wa kirai da: Rôjin no zaitaku kea o sasaeru nettowâku*, 1991) were voted best documentaries of their year by the journal **Kinema Jumpô**. Her other films include *Land of the Dawn* (*Yoake no kuni*,

1967), about China during the Cultural Revolution; *Encyclopedia of Child-rearing* (*Ikuji no hyakka*, 1984); and *Reach Out for the Elderly's Care* (*Chiiki o tsumugu: Saku sôgô byôin koumi-cho shinryôjo kara*, 1996).

TOKUSATSU (特撮). Contracted from the term *tokushu satsuei*, in its general sense *tokusatsu* means “special effects,” though is also used to refer to films or television series that feature an abundance of special effects work, for example *kaijû eiga*, superhero movies, and science fiction films. **Tsurubaya Eiji** is the name most commonly associated with elevating the status of special effects work in Japan, for his highly influential work on **war** films and especially *kaijû eiga*.

The *tokusatsu* superhero genre started with **Shinto**’s the *Super Giant* series, beginning with *The Super Giant* (*Kôtetsu no kyojin*, 1957), directed by Ishii Teruo. Such narratives proved popular on the new medium of television, and **Toei** entered into the field with a series based on the exploits of the *Moonlight Mask* (*Gekkô Kamen*) in 1958, leading to seven films based on the same character, the first directed by Kobayashi Tsuneo the same year. Toei created several television superheroes over the following decades, including the long-running *Kamen Rider* (*Kamen Raidô*) franchise, about a masked motorcycle rider, which first appeared on television in 1971. The first theatrical outing of the character in *Go Go Kamen Rider* (*Gô gô Kamen Raidô*, Shinohara Masao, 1971) was an expanded version of one of the episodes, which was followed by a number of further films throughout the decade, before the character was resurrected in the 1990s and 2000s. Best known overseas, however, is the series *Kyôryû sentai jûrenjâ*, produced by Toei and Bandai, which screened on TV Asahi between 1992 and 1993 and formed the basis of *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers* (1993–1995; *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers: The Movie*, directed by Bryan Spicer, was released in 1995). **Miike Takashi** paid homage to such superhero movies in the 2004 film *Zebraman* (*Zeburâman*).

The term *tokusatsu eiga* is also more broadly used outside of superheroes and *kaijû eiga* to refer to any film that makes extensive use of special effects, particularly in the science fiction genre. Examples include Toei’s *Invasion of the Neptune Men* (*Uchû Kaisokusen*, Ôta Kôji, 1961), which featured Chiba Shinichi in an early film role; **Toho**’s big-budget disaster movie *Japan Sinks* (*Nihon chinbotsu*, Moritani Shirô, 1973), in which the country is submerged by a giant tsunami; and *The War in Space* (*Wakusei daisensô: THE WAR IN SPACE*, Fukuda Jun, 1977), another Toho film that followed in the wake of George Lucas’ *Star Wars*, released earlier the same year in Japan.

TSUBURAYA EIJI (円谷英二, 1901–1970). Japan’s pioneering special effects artist (see **TOKUSATSU**), Tsuburaya Eiji began his career as an as-

sistant cinematographer, working on a number of early films by **Kinugasa Teinosuke**, including *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*, 1926) and several productions for J.O. Studios. Joining **Toho** as head of special visual techniques in 1938, he worked on a number of **war** propaganda features, with his notable work including Kimura Sotoji's *Naval Bomber Squadron* (*Kaigun bakugeki-tai*, 1940); Abe Yutaka's *The Burning Sky* (*Moyuru ôzora*, 1940); and most famously, the reconstruction of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Yamamoto Kajirô's *The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya* (*Hawai-Maré oki kaisen*, 1942). Long after the war, he was called upon to produce the spectacular sea and aerial battle sequences in films including **Honda Ishirô**'s *Eagle of the Pacific* (*Taiheiyô no washi*, 1953), Matsubayashi Shûei's *Storm Over the Pacific* (*Hawai Middouei daikaikûsen: Taiheiyô no arashi*, 1960), and Maruyama Seiji's *Admiral Yamamoto* (*Rengo kantai shirei chôkan: Yamamoto Isoroku*, 1968).

Tsuburaya's credits also include *The Transparent Man Appears* (*Tômei ningen arawaru*, 1949), but he is best remembered for his collaborations on Toho's *kaijû eiga*, particularly those of Honda. In 1963, he established Tsuburaya Special Effects Productions (*Tsuburaya Tokugi Purodakushon*; the company changed its name to Tsuburaya Productions after 1968), whose most famous creation was the superhero *Ultraman* (the character first appeared on television in a series aired between 1966 and 1967, with subsequent series, theatrical versions, *manga*, *anime*, and video game spin-offs too numerous to detail).

TSUKAMOTO SHINYA (塚本晋也, 1960–). Tsukamoto Shinya is a director and occasional actor who is best known for the cult movie *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (*Tetsuo*, 1989), regarded as a key title in the cyberpunk science fiction subgenre for its vivid depiction of a man (Taguchi Tomorrowo) transforming from flesh into machine in a decaying, postindustrial metropolis. The film followed from Tsukamoto's earlier work with his own experimental theater troupe, with which he made a series of *jishu eiga* 8mm shorts that include *Story of a Giant Cockroach* (*Kyodai gokiburi monogatari*, 1975), *The Phantom of Regular Size* (*Futsû saizu no kaijin*, 1986), and *Adventures of Electric Rod Boy* (*Denchû Kozô no bôken*, 1987), all heavily influenced by the *kaijû eiga* fantasy genre. Entirely self-financed, *Tetsuo* was shot using 16mm monochrome film and made inventive use of stop-motion for its special effects sequences. Tsukamoto was originally unable to find a distributor for the film in Japan, until it received the Best Film Award at Rome's FantaFestival, and it rapidly went on to gain a large worldwide following. He later reworked the original premise with a higher budget in *Tetsuo II: Body Hammer* (1992) and in an English-language version with a predominantly American cast in *Tetsuo: The Bullet Man* (2010).

Like **Ishii Sôgo**, Tsukamoto has been seen as a role model for aspiring filmmakers in successfully pursuing a commercial career from outside the industry; the unexpected breakout success of the original *Tetsuo* resulted in his being hired to direct *Hiruko the Goblin* (*Yôkai hantô: Hiroko*, 1991), a teen-oriented horror fantasy about a school built on the gates of hell that is besieged by demons. Adapted by Tsukamoto from the work of the *manga* artist Morohoshi Daijirô, it was produced by Sedic International and distributed by **Shochiku**. However, Tsukamoto much prefers the greater degree of control of producing his films, which he also scripts and shoots, through his own **independent** Kaiju Theater (*Kaijû shiatô*) production company, and his only similar studio production is *Gemini* (*Sôseiji*, 1999), an adaptation of a **Edogawa Rampo** short story about a doctor who is ousted from his household by his psychotic identical twin, which was also produced by Sedic International, although distributed by **Toho**.

Tsukamoto's films are characterized by a fascination with violence and, more specifically, exploring human physicality in onscreen worlds. They include *Tokyo Fist* (*Tôkyô fisuto*, 1995), in which a salaryman trains to become a semiprofessional boxer after running into an old childhood friend who has taken a very different path from his, whom he suspects might be having an affair with his girlfriend; *Bullet Ballet* (*Baretto barê*, 1998), about a corporate advertising worker who, after his fiancée shoots herself, develops a gun obsession and manages to get hold of a pistol in order to take revenge on the group of juvenile delinquents who have assaulted him; *A Snake of June* (*Rokugatsu no hebi*, 2003), a nightmarish tale of erotic obsession; *Vital* (*Vitâru*, 2004), starring **Asano Tadanobu** as a medical student whose memories of his former girlfriend, killed in a traffic accident, are reawakened when a young female corpse is brought in for a dissection class; and the more orthodox **J-Horror** titles *Nightmare Detective* (*Akuma tantei*, 2006) and its 2008 sequel, featuring Matsuda Ryûhei as a private investigator capable of seeing into peoples' dreams, who is called in by the police to investigate a spate of unexplained suicides.

As well as acting in many of his own titles, most notably *Tokyo Fist* and *Bullet Ballet*, Tsukamoto has also played in other directors' work, including Hayashi Kaizô's homage to *film noir*, *The Most Terrible Time in My Life* (*Waga jinsei saiaku no toki*, 1994; see KIMURA TAKEO); **Miike Takashi's** *Ichi the Killer* (*Koroshiya Ichi*, Miike Takashi, 2001); Ôtani Kentarô's *A Woman's Work* (*Torabaiyu*, 2002), about the rivalry between two sisters who are professional *shôgi* (Japanese chess) players; and Shimizu Takashi's inventive J-Horror film *Marebito* (2004).

U

UCHIDA TOMU (内田吐夢, 1898–1970). Uchida Tomu's filmography spans two great filmmaking periods separated by a 15-year hiatus due to the **war**, although his output of primarily genre films and lack of an immediately obvious signature style has meant that he has been overshadowed by contemporaries such as **Ozu Yasujirô**, **Naruse Mikio**, and **Mizoguchi Kenji**.

Born in Okayama prefecture in western Japan, Uchida entered the film industry as an actor, moving to Yokohama in the early 1920s, where he appeared in a number of works produced by the Taikatsu company, including its first film, *Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu*, 1920), directed by Thomas Kurihara (see PURE FILM MOVEMENT; TANIZAKI JUNICHIRO), and other productions, including many for **Makino Shôzô**'s company. Following a brief period immediately after the 1923 Great Kantô Earthquake working as an itinerant performer, he returned to **Nikkatsu**'s studios in Tokyo. Codirecting and production credits on several films during this early period, including one for an early silhouette (*kagi-e*) **animation** (see *ANIME*) codirected with Okuda Hidehiko, *Crab Temple Omen* (*Kani manji engi*, 1925), point to Uchida's increasingly active role behind the camera, and in 1927 he made his feature directing debut with *Three Days of Competition* (*Kyôsô mikkakan*).

Very little of Uchida's output of around 40 titles made in the prewar period survives, although at the time his films were noted for containing strong left-wing sympathies, common to many who began in the industry during its first great flourish in the 1920s. *Living Doll* (*Ikeru ningyô*, 1929) was a **tendency film** about a man who cheats his way to the top and eventually gets his comeuppance. *Earth* (*Tsuchi*, 1939) portrayed the harsh lives of a rural agricultural community and was filmed over the course of a year to capture the changing seasons and focus on their relationship with the land. However, the director's social convictions were compromised by the increasingly militaristic climate of the times, resulting in films like the third part of *The World Turns* (*Chikyû wa mawaru*, 1928) omnibus, *Fantasy Chapter* (*Kûsô-hen*), which depicted a hypothetical aerial attack on Japan; *The Police Officer* (*Keisatsukan*, 1933), a police drama made with the endorsement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

and one of his few extant silent works; and *Asia Cries Out* (*Sakebu ajia*, 1933). See also WAR AND FILM.

During the later stages of the war, Uchida found it difficult to make films, though his two-part *History* (*Rekishì*, 1940) for Nikkatsu and *Torì Suneemon* (1942) for **Shochiku** were made in line with the militarist government's policy of glorifying Japan's feudal past. In 1941, Uchida left Japan to join the **Manchuria Film Association** and, though he never made a film in China, remained on the Asian mainland for almost a decade following his country's defeat. He returned in 1953, and with the aid of old friends, including **Ozu Yasujirō**, Itō Daisuke, and **Shimizu Hiroshi**, restarted his career with *Bloody Spear at Mount Fuji* (*Chiyari Fuji*, 1955) for **Toei**, a tragicomic *jidai-geki* road movie following a samurai and his two retainers as they travel on foot along the Tokaidō highway. It was a remake of a 1927 film, *A Travelers Journal of Sorrow* (*Dōchū hiki*), directed by Inoue Kintarō.

In this second phase of his career, which ended with *Swords of Death* (*Shinken shōbu*, 1971), released by **Toho** after his death, Uchida pursued the socially committed brand of realism with which he first made his name, although also of note are the stylistic experimentations of *Chikamatsu's Love in Osaka* (*Naniwa no koi no monogatari*, 1959), in which the famous Bunraku playwright appears in the background authoring the fate of his young-lover protagonists, and *The Mad Fox* (*Koi ya koi nasuna koi*, 1962), based on a traditional tale from the Heian Era and combining the artifice of the Kabuki and Noh theatrical forms with standard period-drama tropes and a brief animated segment. Over half of these 24 later films, virtually all of which were produced at **Toei's** Kyoto studios, were in the *jidai-geki* genre, and his serial adaptations of the classic literary works *Swords in the Moonlight* (*Daibosatsu tōge*, 1957–1959, three parts), the first time Uchida worked in color, and *Miyamoto Musashi* (1961–1965, five parts), as well as stand-alone titles like *The Master Spearman* (*Sake to onna to yari*, 1960), were strongly critical of the traditional feudal ethos.

His contemporary-set films were also marked by a tangible sense of cynicism and regret for the war years. *Twilight Saloon* (*Tasogare sakaba*, 1955), his only film for **Shinto**, was set over the course of one evening in a Tokyo beer hall and integrated musical performances with melodramatic and comic vignettes to explore its characters' relationships with the recent past, while the internal family wranglings of *A Hole of My Own Making* (*Jibun no ana no naka de*, 1955), one of the first films produced by the newly reopened **Nikkatsu**, expressed grave misgivings about Japan's post-Occupation future. His magnum opus from this period is considered to be *Straits of Hunger* (*Kiga kaigyō*, 1965), a brooding three-hour epic shot in monochrome. It detailed a police detective's lifelong pursuit of a fugitive responsible for the murder of

two men after escaping from a ferry sinking off the coast of Hokkaido during a typhoon in 1947, and presents a thinly veiled critique of the industrialists, bureaucrats, and politicians who were successfully reinstated in their posts despite being prosecuted for war crimes.

V

V-CINEMA (BUI SHINEMA, ブイシネマ). V-Cinema is the term for the sizable market, particularly strong in the 1990s, for productions intended solely for release directly to video and, latterly, DVD. Strictly speaking, it refers only to the titles belonging to the **Toei** V-Cinema line, created by the company's subsidiary Toei Video in 1989. Though a registered trademark of the company, V-Cinema is often used generically in place of the terms OV (Original Video) and Bideo Eiga (Video Film) to describe any film made for the home-viewing market, with other companies active in this field including Bandai Visual, KSS, Pink Pineapple, Shochiku Home Video (SHV), and Japan Home Video. It has its equivalent in *anime* in the form of the **OVA**.

The first Toei V-Cinema release was *Crime Hunter: Bullet of Fury* (*Kuraimu hantô: Ikari no jûdan*, 1989), which initiated a three-part series directed by Okawa Shundô and starring Sera Masanori. The film introduced the actor Takeuchi Riki who, along with Aikawa Shô, was to become one of the most iconic performers in this new field. While the *yakuza* or action-movie genres made up a large proportion of the direct-to-video industry's output, especially for Toei, there were also significant markets for erotic and **horror** productions, as well as specialist subgenres of stories set, for example, in the world of *pachinko* gaming or Mah Jong.

Toei Video also mounted a number of Hollywood coproductions with the Japanese actor Katô Masaya among otherwise predominantly American casts as part of the Toei V America line. *Crime Broker* (1993), starring Jacqueline Bisset, and *The Seventh Floor* (1994), starring Brooke Shields, were both directed by Ian Barry, and the live-action adaptation of the popular *manga* by Koike Kazuo, *Crying Freeman* (1995), was directed by Christophe Gans and represented an early international project for the future producer of *Ring*, Ichise Takashige.

Despite being released on video, OV productions were originally shot on 16mm or Super 16mm, before digital video became technically and financially more viable. As such, in the 1990s especially the genre provided a valuable training ground for newcomers to the industry to work with film and real crews. Directors who have graduated from this industry sector include

Kurosawa Kiyoshi, whose titles include *Yakuza Taxi* (893 ([*Yakuza*] *takushî*, 1994) and the six-film *Suit Yourself or Shoot Yourself!* (*Katte ni shiyagare!!*, 1995–1996) series; **Aoyama Shinji**, with *A Cop, a Bitch and a Killer* (*Waga mune ni kyôki ari*, 1996); Shimizu Takashi, whose two *Ju-on* films (both 2000) formed the basis for the later theatrical versions; and **Miike Takashi**, whose numerous early career works in the genre include *A Human Murder Weapon* (*Ningen kyôki: Ai to ikari no ringu*, 1992) and *Full Metal Yakuza* (*Full Metal gokudô*, 1997). Miike's *Fudoh: The New Generation* (*Gokudô sengokushi: Fudô*, 1996) is a rare example of a film originally made for this market that was blown up to 35mm for theatrical release and played at a number of overseas film festivals. Other straight-to-video productions distributed overseas include Satô Hisayasu's gory horror film *Naked Blood* (*Megyaku NAKED BLOOD*, 1996) and Hosoyama Tomoaki's erotic comedy *Weather Woman* (*Otenki o-nêsan*, 1995), based on a popular manga character.

W

WAKAMATSU KÔJI (若松孝二, 1936–). Wakamatsu Kôji is the most important and internationally best-known director to emerge from the **pink film** genre. His *Secret Acts Behind Walls* (*Kabe no naka no himegoto*, 1965) caused a national scandal in Japan when it was shown at the Berlin Film Festival without official authorization by the Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan (*Eiren* or MPPAJ), while *Embryo Hunts in Secret* (*Taiji ga mitsuryô suru toki*, 1966) was selected for the Brussels Experimental Film Festival in 1968, and he traveled with **Ôshima Nagisa** to present his *Sex Jack* (*Seizoku: sekkusu jakku*, 1970) and *Violated Angels* (*Okasareta byakui*, 1967) at Cannes in 1971.

Born in northerly Miyagi prefecture, Wakamatsu dropped out of agricultural college and moved to Tokyo at age 17 where, after becoming involved with a local *yakuza* gang, he spent a year in prison. After his release he found work as an assistant television director, then made his cinema debut with the pink film *Sweet Trap* (*Amai wana*, 1963). He made a further 20 works for various small *eroduction* (“erotic production”) companies before founding Wakamatsu Pro in 1965.

Collaborating closely with experimental filmmaker Adachi Masao and two assistant directors from **Nikkatsu**, Sone Chûsei and Yamatoya Atsushi (see also ROMAN PORNO; SUZUKI SEIJUN), Wakamatsu Pro’s early low-budget works were energetic, abrasive, and violently in tune with the turbulent 1960s. Marked by a strong antiauthoritarian stance, they were immensely popular with college-age audiences, and Wakamatsu Pro became closely linked with the scene emerging around the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG)’s Shinjuku Bunka cinema, as well as with notorious radical left-wing groups such as the Japan Red Army (*Nihon Sekigun*) and the United Red Army (*Rengô Sekigun*). He also made *The Notorious Concubines* (*Kinpeibai*, 1968), an erotic period drama starring **Itami Jûzô**, based on a classic of Chinese literature, for **Shochiku**, an attempt by the company to capitalize on the popularity of the sexually explicit output of the pink film industry.

The subversive political elements in Wakamatsu Pro’s films came to the fore with Adachi Masao’s *The Red Army/PFLP: Declaration of World War*

(*Sekigun-PFLP: Sekai sensô sengen*, 1971), a propagandistic documentary call-to-arms produced by Wakamatsu that highlighted the Palestinian struggle for their homelands, and the ATG coproduction of *Ecstasy of Angels* (*Tenshi no kôkotsu*, 1972), which depicted the internecine power struggles between different groups of violent revolutionaries. After the **Asama Mountain Lodge Incident**, Wakamatsu Pro came under increasing police surveillance, and Wakamatsu put the company on hold while making a number of more straightforward sex films for **Shinto** (a pink company tangentially linked with the original studio of the same name, which had gone bankrupt in 1961), which included *Hundred Year Torture Chronicle* (*Gômon hyakunen-shi*, 1975) and *Thirteen Serial Assaults* (*Jûsannin renzoku bôkôma*, 1978). During this period he was the Japanese producer on Ôshima's *In the Realm of the Senses* (*Ai no korîda*, 1976) and directed the non-pink film *Eros Eterna* (*Seibo kannon daibôtsatsu*, 1977) for ATG.

After recommencing production through his own company with *A Pool Without Water* (*Mizu no nai pôru*, 1982), Wakamatsu effectively left the pink film world behind and produced the bigger-budget erotic films *Woman with the Red Hat* (*Akai bôshi no onna*, Kumashiro Tatsumi, 1982), set in Weimar Republic Berlin, and *The Key* (*Kagi*, Kimata Akitaka, 1983), adapted from a novel by **Tanizaki Junichirô**. He also kept up a steady output as a director in a number of genres, with notable works including *Ready to Shoot* (*Ware ni utsu yoi ari*, 1990), about a former left-wing activist who shelters a Vietnamese refugee from the police, and *Endless Waltz* (*Endoresu warutsu*, 1995), a biopic about the experimental jazz saxophonist Abe Kaoru, who died in 1978 from a drug overdose. In 2007, Wakamatsu's *United Red Army* (*Jitsuroku rengô sekigun: Asama sansô e no michi*) premiered at the Tokyo International Film Festival, an epic docudrama reconstruction of the events leading up to the Asama Mountain Lodge Incident, while Terajima Shinobu won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival for *Caterpillar* (*Kyata-pirâ*), set in 1940 during the Second Sino-Japanese War and based on a story by **Edogawa Rampo**.

WAR AND FILM. Japan has been involved in four major conflicts since its emergence on the world stage as a modern nation-state with the Meiji Restoration of 1868: the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895), the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905), World War I (1914–1917), and World War II (1939–1945). World War II was preceded by military conflicts with the Republic of China following the Manchurian Incident (or Mukden Incident) of 18 September 1931 and the establishment of the puppet state of Manchukuo by the Japanese the following year (see also MANCHURIA FILM ASSOCIATION), with the country entering into direct conflict with the Western

powers following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on 7 December 1941, and is also referred to as the Second Sino–Japanese War, the Fifteen-Years War, and the Pacific War.

Although cinema technology was unknown in Japan at the time of the First Sino–Japanese War, during the country's imperialist ambitions throughout the early part of the 20th century, it played a huge propagandistic role in mobilizing its citizens while constructing and shaping an image of the country, its historic traditions, and its adversaries. After the country's renunciation of war following its defeat in World War II, numerous films set during these conflicts have also served various purposes, from humanistic antiwar treatises to nationalistic revisionism.

The first instances of cinema being used as a propaganda tool (*see* DOCUMENTARY) occurred during the Russo–Japanese War (1904–1905), with footage of the Japanese troops screened as the *Russo–Japanese War Moving Pictures* (*Nichiro sensô katsudô shashin*) series from early on in the conflict providing a lucrative business for the new **Yoshizawa** and Yokota companies. None of these films contained authentic battle footage, as the navy forbade cameramen on its warships at the time, although occasionally training exercises were permitted to be filmed. Attempts at “faked” reconstructions of the naval battles using actors and scale models were quickly seen for what they were and failed to become a significant feature of the cinema of the period. The conflict was the first instance of a non-Western country achieving victory over an established world power and established Japan as the major political force in East Asia. Nonetheless, public resentment about the war's human and financial costs ran high in its aftermath. It was not until 1909 that the first fictional dramatic film based on the war with Russia was released: *Cherry Blossoms of Japan* (*Yamato zakura*). Filmed by cameraman Iwafuji Shisetsu for the M. Pathé Company, it portrayed a young man's war experiences, from his being called up for service to his tragic death on the battlefield.

While imported films gave Japanese audiences a view of the horrors of World War I in Europe, the nation's involvement following its formal declaration of war against Germany on 23 August 1914, assisting Great Britain in protecting its colonial interests in Asia and resulting in Japan gaining control of German-leased territories in the Far East and expanding its influence in China, was not a popular subject in its own films. The latter stages of the war, in which Japan and the United States sent troops to Siberia in 1918 to support the Russian White Army resistance to the Bolshevik Red Army following the Russian Revolution of the previous year, did however, result in at least one film, *The Last Day of Nikolaevsk* (*Nikô saigo no hi*, 1920), directed by Sakata Shigenori at **Nikkatsu**. It was a response to the notorious Nikô Incident of the same year, in which 122 Japanese prisoners were massacred by Russian parti-

sans. It is worth mentioning a number of *Shinpa* adaptations that were made during this period against the backdrop of earlier conflicts: Tanaka Eizô's 1919 version of Tokutomi Roka's novel *The Cuckoo* (*Hototogisu*, serialized between 1898 and 1899), for Nikkatsu, and Ikeda Yoshinobu's 1922 version for **Shochiku**, depicted domestic disharmony within an elite military family, as its married protagonists were separated due to the First Sino-Japanese War.

In the wake of the Bolshevik Revolution, from 1919 onward the Ministry of Education began to promote the idea of films that discouraged pacifism and communist sentiment, as well as emphasizing the benevolent role of the military in civilian life, resulting in titles such as Shochiku's *Japanese Spirit* (*Yamato damashii*, Nomura Hôtei, 1924) and Nikkatsu's *A Brave Sailor* (*Yûkan naru suihei*, Saegusa Genjirô, 1926). In 1928, Nikkatsu also released the speculative omnibus movie *The World Turns* (*Chikyû wa mawaru*, 1928), split into three parts, directed by Tasaka Tomotaka (*Bygone Days Chapter/Kako-hen*), Abe Yutaka (*Present Day Chapter/Gendai-hen*), and **Uchida Tomu** (*Fantasy Chapter/Kûsô-hen*), with the latter conjecturing possible aerial warfare over the Asian mainland. In 1930, Shochiku released *The Army Advances* (*Shingun*), directed by Ushihara Kiyohiko and starring Suzuki Denmei and **Tanaka Kinuyo**. The film was essentially an action romance with aerial combat sequences, modeled on the Hollywood film *Wings* (1927), directed by William A. Wellman and starring Clara Bow, then a highly popular actress in Japan.

Narratives involving fantasy warfare and fetishizing military technology became more prominent from the beginning of the Shôwa era in other media too, including novels and magazines aimed at boys. However, real-life events soon began to shape the form of Japanese cinema of the period. The deaths of Captain Nakamura Shintarô and three other members of the Imperial Japanese Army at the hands of Chinese soldiers on 27 June 1931, which led to the Manchurian Incident, were retold in *Ah! Captain Nakamura* (*Aa Nakamura Taii*, 1931), directed by Nakajima Hôzô for the newly established Shinkô Kinema. Other rapidly produced titles in the wake of the event, some integrating footage shot in Manchuria, include two films entitled *The Manchurian March* (*Manshû kôshinkyoku*, 1932), released within a week of each other in March 1932, the first by Nakanami Ryôta for Shinkô, the second a Shochiku version codirected by Sasaki Yasushi and **Shimizu Hiroshi**; and Shinkô's *Daughter of Manchuria* (*Manshû musume*, Watanabe Shintarô, 1932) and *The Dawn of Manchuria and Mongolia* (*Manmô kenkoku no reimei*, 1932). This latter title, directed by **Mizoguchi Kenji**, was the first production of the **independent** company Irie Pro (see WOMEN), founded by the female lead in the film, Irie Takako, who played a Manchu princess, and portrayed the major military figures who masterminded the annexation of Manchuria. Another in-

cident, in which three members of a naval brigade bomb squad lost their lives in a suicidal attack on a base held by the Chinese resistance in Shanghai in February 1932, also prompted a spate of fictional reconstructions espousing patriotism and self-sacrifice. *Valorous Glory! The Three Human Bomb Patriots* (*Chûretsu nikudan sanyûshi*, 1932) was directed by Furumi Takuji for the Tōkatsu Film Company, a short-lived operation based in Kyoto between 1931 and 1932 (not to be confused with Tōkatsu Production, a company that produced erotic films for Shochiku during the 1970s); and *Showa Gods of War: The Three Human Bomb Patriots* (*Shōwa shingun: Nikudan sanyûshi*, Fukui Shinsaburō, 1932) was produced for the small independent Fukui Film Company. At least two films entitled *The Three Human Bomb Patriots* (*Nikudan sanyûshi*) were also made, one directed by Ishikawa Seiji for Shinkō, and the other, with no less than six little-known directors credited, produced by the Kawai Film Production Company (*Kawai Eiga Seisaku-sha*), which was founded by Kawai Tokusaburō in 1927 and produced approximately 470 silent films until 1933.

A number of the films produced in this period were made with the assistance of or direct funding from the military. There was also a spate of films set during the Russo–Japanese War, many of which celebrated heroes of the conflict, such as Kawai's *Remember General Nogi* (*Omoi okose Nogi shōgun*, Yoshimura Misao, 1932), and which undertook to present the military in a strong light and military service as a patriotic duty, as in Nikkatsu's *Mobilization Orders* (*Dōinrei*, Kumagai Hisatora, 1931) and *Draft Notice* (*Shōshûrei*, Watanabe Kunio, 1935). Unfortunately, the majority of such releases during the 1930s, by both major and minor companies alike, can be considered lost, meaning a close analysis of their contents is impossible.

Japan's invasion of Manchuria provoked condemnation on the world stage, and on 27 March 1933, it withdrew from the League of Nations. From this period on, the country prepared itself for a potential conflict with the Western powers, and its cinema reacted accordingly, with such propagandistic works as *Japan in Time of Crisis* (*Hijōji Nippon*, Kondō Iyokichi, 1933), a widely released documentary title produced by the Osaka *Mainichi Shinbun* newspaper that integrated dramatic and animated sequences and was so influential it was submitted as evidence in the Tokyo Trials of 1946; *Great Order* (*Daigōrei*, Yoshimura Misao, 1934), released by Daitō; and *If Japan Should Be Bombed* (*Sekai no senbyō kokubō-hen: Nihon moshi kûjū o ukureba*, 1933), a fictional work directed by Tanaka Shigeo and released by Shinkō. Such "national policy" films (*kokusaku eiga*) were generally unpopular with critics and audiences alike.

Nevertheless, even animation (see *ANIME*) was to become more propagandistic in both content and tone over the decade, with productions includ-

ing the series featuring the comedic antics of the black-and-white stray dog soldier Norakuro, who first appeared in a *manga* created by Tagawa Suihō in 1931 and rose through the ranks, from Murata Yusuji's *Private Norakuro: Drill Reel* (*Norakuro Nidōhei: Kyōren no maki*, 1933) and *Corporal Norakuro* (*Norakuro gochō*, Murata Yasuji, 1934), to Seo Mitsuyo's *Norakuro's Tiger Extermination* (*Norakuro tora taiji*, 1938); *Momotaro vs. Mickey Mouse* (*Ehon 1936-nen*, Taira Yoshitsugu, 1934), an eight-minute animation from J.O. Studios (see TOHO COMPANY), which envisaged a potential war situation in 1936 as Japan's folk hero Momotarō defends an island of black cats from attack by masked mice with an unmistakable resemblance to Walt Disney's iconic creation; and by the late stages of the war, Japan's first feature-length animation, *Momotaro, Eagle of the Sea* (*Momotarō no umiwashi*, Seo Mitsuyo, 1943), made with the backing of the navy.

Following the establishment of the Film Control Committee (*Eiga tōsei iinkai*) in March 1934, which required Home Ministry approval for all films sent abroad and prohibited the import of any films expressing any criticism of Japan and its national policy, the Greater Japan Film Association (*Dai Nihon Eiga Kyōkai*) was established in November 1935 as a self-regulating industry body to coordinate the film world with national policy (see CENSORSHIP). Concurrent with these developments was the extinction of the **tendency film**, which had reached its peak at the beginning of the 1930s, and a rise in the educational *bunka eiga* ("culture film") documentary, educational films encouraged to valorize Japanese culture and traditions. With passing critical comment on national policy nearly impossible, apolitical modern-day romances and melodramas proliferated until 1938, though in a few exceptional works, like Itami Mansaku's *Kakita Akanishi* (*Akanishi Kakita*, 1936) and **Yamanaka Sadao's** *Humanity and Paper Balloons* (*Ninjō kami fūsen*, 1937), the *jidai-geki* genre provided a limited arena for social criticism.

In 1936, Japan entered into the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany, pitting the country against the Soviet Union. Italy joined the two countries the following year, to form an alliance that would become formally known as the Axis Alliance following the signing of the Tripartite Pact in September 1940. In February 1937, the German–Japanese coproduction *Daughter of the Samurai* (*Die Tochter des Samurai*) was released, intended to celebrate a common bond between the two countries; it ended with a final sequence of its main protagonists settling in Manchuria. The same year, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident (also known as the Lugou Bridge, or China Incident) in July signaled the beginning of the Second Sino–Japanese War as Japan intensified its efforts to create the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere (*Dai-tōa Kyōeiken*), a union of countries under Japanese rule and free from the influence of the Western colonial powers, although the concept was only officially

announced in 1940. Cinema played a crucial role in trying to foster a vision of pan-Asian unity during this period, particularly in the films starring **Yamaguchi Yoshiko** (billed as Ri Kôran) produced by the Manchuria Film Association (*Manshû Eiga Kyôkai*), which was established in August 1937, and the productions of **Kawakita Nagamasa**'s Shanghai-based China Film Company (*Chunghwa Dyan-ying*), founded in 1939 to make films for local audiences utilizing Chinese casts and crews. Meanwhile, the documentary films of **Kamei Fumio**, such as *Shanghai* (*Shanghai*, 1938), presented a different picture of Japan's expansion into mainland Asia, while on 17 September 1938, the year the National Mobilization Law was passed, Yamanaka Sadao became the first filmmaker to die after being drafted into the military.

In September 1937, J.O. Studios and P.C.L. merged to form **Toho**, which immediately entered the field of war dramas with Watanabe Kunio's *Striking at the North China Skies* (*Hokushi no sora o tsuku*, 1937), featuring a journalist after his return to Japan following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident. The production of films set on the front line in China began in earnest, including Shochiku's *Song of the Advancing Army* (*Shingun no uta*, Sasaki Yasushi, 1937), in which a man imprisoned for his role in organizing a labor strike forges an unlikely friendship with his boss's son while serving alongside him on the battlefield; two films directed by Tasaka Tomotaka for Nikkatsu, *Five Scouts* (*Gonin no sekkôhei*, 1938), which portrayed a company of soldiers resting in a deserted village surrounded by Chinese insurrectionaries, and *Mud and Soldiers* (*Tsuchi to heitai*, 1939), based on the published field diaries of the novelist Hino Ashihei, who was serving with the Imperial Japanese Army; and Toho's *Chocolate and Soldiers* (*Chokorêto to heitai*, Satô Takeshi, 1938), in which a soldier rallies his comrades to collect chocolate wrappers to send to his young son back in Japan for him to claim a prize. The tone of these films made during the first years of the war in China was humanistic, focusing on the individuals serving with the army, and tended to avoid presenting the Chinese as the enemy.

The political climate by the end of the 1930s meant that there were few opportunities for directors to avoid contributing to the field of war-themed national policy films, as the Home Ministry Censorship Division began more actively discouraging such frivolous works as the *shomin-geki* melodramas of Shochiku. The government commandeered all film stock in 1938, claiming it was a necessary "war resource," and the passing of the **Film Law** (*Eiga-hô*) in 1939 brought the film industry under more-or-less complete state control. **Mizoguchi Kenji**, for example, was responsible for *Camp Song* (*Roei no uta*, 1938), which portrayed a young mother's attempts to gain custody of her son back from her father-in-law after her husband is drafted. Mizoguchi's screenwriter, Noda Kôgo, wrote the script for Shochiku's *Legend of Tank Com-*

mander Nishizumi (Nishizumi senchachôden, 1940), directed by Yoshimura Kôzaburô, adapted from a short story written by Kikuchi Kan (see DAIEI) based on authentic news reports about the titular war hero. At an increasing rate, period dramas too, such as Toho's *The Abe Clan* (*Abe ichizoku*, Kumagai Hisatora, 1938), from the 1912 Mori Ôgai short story set in the 17th century and inspired by the "loyalty suicides" (*junshi*) of the Russo-Japanese war hero General Nogi Maresuke (1849–1912) and his wife following the death of the Meiji emperor, and *The Battle of Kawanakajima* (*Kawanakajima kassen*, 1941) directed by **Kinugasa Teinosuke**, served to bolster the martial spirit and canonize Japanese values of patriotism and self-sacrifice.

The Film Law also had the effect of dramatically reducing imported films, which numbered approximately 140 in the years 1938–1939 and fell to 56 in 1940, with Italian and German films a more notable presence than American releases, while current event films (*jiji eiga*), news films (*nyûsu eiga*), and documentaries celebrating Japan's victories in its campaigns across Asia (*senki eiga*, literally "battle record documentaries") became as significant a part of film programs as dramatic features.

Contemporary war films changed in scope and scale, integrating more spectacular battle sequences in their reconstructions of Japan's military successes in films like Toho's *The Naval Brigade at Shanghai* (*Shanghai rikusentai*, Kumagai Hisatora, 1939) and *The Burning Sky* (*Moyuru ôzora*, Abe Yutaka, 1940). In August 1941, Great Britain, the United States, and the Netherlands East Indies froze the supply of petroleum and other natural resources to Japan in an attempt to curtail its military activities in China and expansion into Indochina, provoking Japan to freeze the assets of foreign enterprises in Japan in response. On 7 December 1941, the surprise aerial attack launched on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii brought the United States into World War II and Japan into direct conflict with the Allied Powers. *The War at Sea from Hawaii to Malaya* (*Hawai-Marê oki kaisen*, Yamamoto Kajirô, 1942), considered the most influential film of the entire war period, reconstructed this attack utilizing special effects (*tokusatsu*) model work designed by **Tsuburaya Eiji**, which were considered so authentic that U.S. Occupation authorities later reputedly assumed that the footage was genuine. The year 1942 also saw a massive restructuring of theatrical industry, with the production facilities of Nikkatsu, Shinkô Kinema, and Daito merged to form the Greater Japan Motion Picture Production Company (*Dai Nihon Eiga Seisaku Kabukishikigaisha*), better known as **Daiei**, leaving Nikkatsu to function only as a distributor, and the Film Distribution Corporation (*Eiga Haikyû Kôsha*) was established to monopolize distribution.

Daiei was responsible for one of the surprisingly few fiction films about the ordeals or adventures of military foot soldiers (as opposed to naval or

aerial combatants), *The General Assault on Singapore* (*Shingaporu sôkôgeki*, Shima Kôji, 1943), which detailed the defeat and capture of the British Empire forces (comprised of British, Australian, Malay, and Indian troops) at Singapore on 15 February 1942 and, with its use of real POWs, was a rare example of a Japanese war film that was able to depict “the enemy.” Filipino and American POWs were also utilized in *Shoot That Flag* (*Ano hata o ute: Corehidôru no saigo*, 1944), directed by Abe Yutaka at Toho, which depicted the assault on Corregidor leading to Japan’s conquest of the Philippines; *Searing Wind* (*Neppu*, 1943), directed by Yamamoto Satsuo for Toho, portrayed Caucasian POWs laboring in an iron smelting factory in Kita-Kyushu.

For the most part, however, the unavailability of Caucasian actors meant that enemy roles were played by Japanese actors, in titles such as *The Spy Isn’t Dead Yet* (*Kanchô imada shisezu*, 1942) and *On the Eve of War* (*Kaisen no zen’ya*, 1943), both made by Yoshimura Kôzaburô for Shochiku and featuring Saitô Tatsuo as an American spy; Kinugasa’s *Forward! Flag of Independence* (*Susumu dokuritsuki*, 1943) for Toho, which featured **Hasegawa Kazuo** as an Indian freedom fighter looking to Japan for assistance against the British; Koga Masato’s *Tiger of Malay* (*Marai no tora*, 1943) for Daiei, which depicted the attempts of Chinese Communist insurgents, backed by the British, to overthrow the Japanese in the South Seas; and Masahiro Makino’s *The Opium War* (*Ahen sensô*, 1943) for Toho, a historical drama that emphasized the perfidy of the British in China. The latter also featured **Hara Setsuko** in one of her several appearances playing a Chinese character, which include the aforementioned *The Naval Brigade at Shanghai* (*Shanghai rikusentai*, 1939).

With Japan’s victory looking doubtful in the latter years of the Pacific War, questions were raised about the efficacy of film in the war effort, and in January 1943, the government announced that film stock would be rationed, with a reduction in the number of titles each company was allowed to make. By 1944, permitted running times were cut from the standard 90 minutes to a maximum of 73 minutes. Reduced production budgets meant a general retrenchment of the industry, with an increase in home-front melodramas about factory workers. Kumagai Hisatora’s earlier *A Story of Leadership* (*Shidô monogatari*, 1941) for Toho provided the template for films such as **Kurosawa Akira**’s *The Most Beautiful* (*Ichiban utsukushiku*, 1944), also for Toho, and Sasaki Keisuke’s *A Woman’s Voyage* (*Josei kôrô*, 1944) and Masahiro Makino’s *Sinking the Unsinkable Battleship* (*Fuchinkan gekichin*, 1944) for Shochiku, the latter about workers in a factory providing explosives for torpedoes.

There was also a trend in titles that followed the recruitment of young men into the military and their subsequent training to serve their country: Toho’s *Towards the Decisive Battle in the Sky* (*Kessen no ôzora e*, Watanabe

Kunio, 1943); and Shochiku's *Navy* (*Kaigun*, Tasaka Tomaka, 1943), *Army* (*Rikugun*, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1944), and *You Are the Next Wild Eagles* (*Kimi koso tsugi no arawashi da*, Hozumi Toshimasa, 1944), the last scripted by Noda Kôgo. More sinister examples of this latter group included a number of recruitment films for Japan's notorious kamikaze squads (*tokkôtai*), such as *Believe That Others Will Follow* (*Ato ni tsuzuku o shinzu*, Watanabe Kunio, 1945); *Torpedo Squadron Moves Out* (*Raigekitai shutsudô*, Yamamoto Kajirô, 1945); *Last Visit Home* (*Saigo no kikyô*, Tanaka Shigeo and Yoshimura Misao, 1945); the Nichiei documentary *Army Special Attack Squad* (*Rikugun tokubetsu kôgekitai*, 1945); and Imai Tadashi's *Love and Vows* (*Ai to chikai*, 1945), which explicitly targeted Korean youths for recruitment.

Following the **atomic bombings** of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies on 15 August 1945, and all cinemas across the nation were ordered closed for the following week. In the months preceding its defeat, many of the films made during the war were destroyed in U.S. firebombing raids across the country, and also by companies such as Toho and Daiei, fearful that they would be used as evidence to prosecute those involved in their production with war crimes. Toho did, however, allow Kurosawa to continue making *The Men Who Tread on the Tiger's Tail* (*Tora no o o fumu otokotachi*, 1945), a *jidai-geki* that was in production during the month that Japan's surrender was announced.

On 28 August, the six-year occupation by the Allied forces under Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP) General Douglas MacArthur began, and all film censorship passed into the hands of the Occupation, which forbade films valorizing the war, all *jidai-geki* (under the rationale that such films fostered a militaristic spirit), and films containing references to the Occupation. On 28 April 1946, a total of 31 individuals from the industry, including 23 former officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Bureau of Information and a number of studio executives and directors, were charged with war crimes and categorized as either Class A (permanent expulsion from industry), Class B (temporary suspension), or Class C ("self-criticism") offenders. Among these were Ôsawa Yoshio, Mori Iwao, and Uemura Yasuji from Toho; Nagata Masaichi and Kikuchi Kan from Daiei; Hori Kyûsaku from Nikkatsu; Kido Shirô from Shochiku; **Kawakita Nagamasa** of the Towa Trading Partnership; and the directors Kumagai Hisatori, Sasaki Yasushi, Shima Kôji, Watanabe Kunio, Yamamoto Kajirô, and Yoshimura Kôzaburô. Between 23 April and 4 May 1946, the Occupation forces burned a large number of war films and *jidai-geki* on the banks of the Tama River in Tokyo, though one negative and two prints of each title were submitted to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., most of which were returned to Japan in 1967. Nevertheless, a large number of

films produced during wartime are now considered lost or are unavailable for viewing.

The Allied Occupation marked the end of Japan's imperialist ambitions for the remainder of the 20th century, with the **Anpo Agreement** of 1952 putting the country on America's side during the Cold War period. Nevertheless, Japan's military campaigns and the lives of its wartime leaders still provided cinema with ample subject matter. Saeki Kiyoshi's *Tragic General: Yamashita Tomoyuki* (*Higeki no shōgun: Yamashita Tomoyuki*, 1953) for Toei starred **Hayakawa Sessue** as Japanese Imperial Army General Yamashita Tomoyuki (1885–1946), who had captured Singapore from the British and was sentenced to death for war crimes in the Philippines. **Honda Ishirō**'s *Eagle of the Pacific* (*Taiheiyō no washi*) for Toho and Abe Yutaka's *Battleship Yamato* (*Senkan Yamato*) for **Shintoho** both celebrated the exploits of Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku (1884–1943), who had engineered the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Midway before dying when his plane was shot down by American fighters. Admiral Yamamoto proved one of Japanese cinema's most popular war heroes, as evidenced by the success of Shimura Toshio's *God of War Admiral Yamamoto and the Combined Fleet* (*Gunshin yamamoto gensui to rengō kantai*, 1956), which like the previous films portrayed him as opposed to the idea of war with America. Its success led to a string of further patriotic war spectacles from the studio **Shintoho** until its bankruptcy in 1961, the most popular of which was Japan's second widescreen production, *The Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo–Japanese War* (*Meiji tennō to nichiro dai-sensō*, 1957); set during the war with Russia in 1904–1905 and directed by Watanabe Kunio, it became the top-grossing film of the 1950s.

Countering these trends for glorifying the country's dead war generals were more critical titles, such as *Vacuum Zone* (*Shinkū chitai*, 1952), an **independent** production that offered a harsh critique of the brutality of the Japanese military, from the leftist director Yamamoto Satsuo (although Yamamoto had also contributed to the war effort with films such as the aforementioned *Searing Wind* in 1943). Yamamoto had also collaborated with **Kamei Fumio** on *War and Peace* (*Sensō to heiwa*, 1947). Sekigawa Hideo's *Dawn, Fifteenth of August* (*Shūsen hiwa: Reimei hachigatsu jūgo-nichi*, 1952) for **Toei** portrayed a group of military fanatics eager to continue the war as the emperor announces Japan's surrender; Ieki Miyoji's *Beyond the Clouds* (*Kumo nagaruru hate ni*, 1953) was a solemn portrayal of the young lives lost as kamikaze pilots; and *Sacrifice of the Human Torpedoes* (*Ningen gyōrai kaiten*, Shūei Matsubayashi, 1955) was about a man drafted into the navy as part of the suicidal "human torpedo" squads. There were also humanistic titles that portrayed the suffering of individuals on the battlefield, including **Ichikawa Kon**'s *Fires on the Plain* (*Nobi*, 1959), about a soldier lost in the Philippines

at the end of the war, and Kobayashi Masaki's *The Human Condition* (*Ningen no jôken*, 1959–1961) trilogy, about a conscientious objector conscripted to serve in Manchuria in 1943. **Kinoshita Keisuke** also made several dramas at Shochiku depicting the war through the eyes of civilians remaining in Japan, such as *A Japanese Tragedy* (*Nihon no higeki*, 1953) and *Twenty-Four Eyes* (*Nijûshi no hitomi*, 1954).

By the beginning of the 1960s, the war had receded far enough in history to be treated with a more ironic or reflective sense of detachment, with a new generation of filmmakers creating works for a very different audience demographic without direct experience of the war, only its legacy, and existing in a very different political reality. In 1963, Shochiku began a series of three serviceman comedies directed by Nomura Yoshitarô: *Dear Mr. Emperor* (*Haike tennô heika-sama*, 1963), *Dear Mr. Emperor 2* (*Zoku: Haike tennô heika-sama*, 1964) and *Dear Mr. Prime Minister* (*Haike soridaijin-sama*, 1964), which featured Atsushi Kiyoshi, the star of the long-running *It's Tough Being a Man* (*Otoko wa tsurai yo*, 1969–1997) series directed by **Yamada Yôji** (who contributed to the screenplay of the second film), as a low-ranking dimwit for whom military life is a more attractive alternative than his peacetime role as a farmer. The series of films initiated by **Masumura Yasuzô**'s *Hoodlum Soldier* (*Heitai yakuza*, 1965), featuring **Katsu Shintarô** as a former *yakuza* stationed among the ranks of soldiers serving in Manchuria, questioned blind obedience to authority, while the same director's *Red Angel* (*Akai tenshi*, 1966), also made at Daiei, featured Wakao Ayako as a nurse serving in a field hospital in China in 1939, depicting life on the front line in all its brutality. **Suzuki Seijun**'s *Story of a Prostitute* (*Shunpuden*, 1965) for Nikkatsu similarly looked at the forgotten role of women in the war, focusing on a “comfort woman” or military prostitute. **Fukasaku Kinji**'s *Under the Flag of the Rising Sun* (*Gunki hatameku moto ni*, 1972) featured **Hidari Sachiko** as a war widow still seeking compensation 30 years after the war, which she is told she will not receive because her husband was executed for desertion, while *Human Bullet* (*Nikudan*, 1968), a satire about a soldier assigned to a suicide mission in the dying days of the war, was one of several self-financed titles directed by Okamoto Kihachi, better known for his *jidai-geki*, and released by the **Art Theatre Guild** (ATG), which also include *Battle Cry* (*Tokkan*, 1975).

Okamoto also made a number of bigger-budget war films for Toho, including *Japan's Longest Day* (*Nihon no ichiban nagai hi*, 1967) and *The Battle of Okinawa* (*Gekidô no Shôwa-shi: Okinawa kessen*, 1971). Toho led the way in presenting the war as spectacle for a new generation in a series of titles, many featuring **Mifune Toshirô** and with special effects by Tsuburaya Eiji, including its first color widescreen war film, *Storm Over the Pacific* (*Ha-*

wai Middouei daikaikûsen: Taiheiyô no arashi, Matsubayashi Shûei, 1960), whose reconstructed battle scenes were later reused in Jack Smight's *Midway* (1976) for America's Universal Pictures; Maruyama Seiji's *Admiral Yamamoto* (*Rengô kantai shirei chôkan: Yamamoto Isoroku*, 1968); and Horikawa Hiromichi's *Turning Point of Showa History: The Militarists* (*Gekidô no shôwa-shi: Gunbatsu*, 1970). Mifune also played the Russo-Japanese naval war hero Fleet Admiral Tôgô Heihachirô (1848–1934) in *Battle of the Sea of Japan* (*Nihonkai daikaisen*, Maruyama Seiji, 1969) and **Masuda Toshio's** *Battle Anthem* (*Nihonkai daikaisen: Umi yukaba*, 1983). Matsuda, along with Fukasaku Kinji, directed the Japanese segments of the U.S.–Japanese coproduction *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (Richard Fleischer, 1970), a dramatization of the attack on Pearl Harbor filmed in 70mm and told from both the American and Japanese perspectives, with Yamamura Sô playing Admiral Yamamoto.

By the turn of the 21st century, Japan's role in World War II found itself subject to reappraisal, revisionism, and reimagination within its cinema, following Toei's release of Itô Shunya's controversial *Pride* (*Puraido: Unmei no toki*, 1998), a hagiographical account of Tôjô Hideki, Japan's prime minister between 1941 and 1944, who was executed for war crimes by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in 1948. Other treatments of the war that followed include Higuchi Shinji's *Lorelei: The Witch of the Pacific Ocean* (*Rôrerai*, 2005), a manga-esque science fiction fantasy in which a submarine captained by **Yakusho Kôji** foils a third A-bomb attack on Tokyo with the aid of a young girl with powers of telekinesis; *Yamato* (*Otoko-tachi no Yamato*), produced by **Kadokawa Haruki**, about the rediscovery of the famous battleship that had sunk on the way to Okinawa in 1945; and *For Those We Love* (*Ore wa, kimi no tame ni koso shini ni iku*, 2007), a film about kamikaze pilots, directed by Shinjô Taku from a script by the serving governor of Tokyo, **Ishihara Shintarô**.

At the same time, documentaries such as Matsui Minoru's *Japanese Devils* (*Riben Guizi*, 2001), in which 14 former members of the Imperial Army detail the atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese on the Asian mainland; Japanese–American Morimoto Risa's *Tokko: Wings of Defeat* (2007), which interviewed surviving kamikaze pilots; and Japan-based Chinese director Li Ying's *Yasukuni* (2008), which investigates the political role played by Japan's infamous shrine for its war dead, sought a more thorough investigation of Japan's wartime activities and their legacy.

WOMEN. The number of women working in positions of power at all levels of the Japanese film industry is worthy of note, although as in all countries, it is still far smaller than the ranks of men. Filmmakers including **Kawase Naomi**, **Haneda Sumiko**, Nishikawa Miwa, Matsui Hisako, and Tanada Yuki

have established successful careers in **documentary** film, art-house cinema, and the commercial mainstream, with others also working in more exploitative genres such as **horror** and **pink film**.

Behind the scenes, women are also active as producers, screenwriters, cinematographers, and editors. To take one example, the film *Tokyo Sonata* (*Tôkyô sonata*, 2008), though viewed as very much the project of its director, **Kurosawa Kiyoshi**, not only originated from producer Kitô Yukie, but was filmed by Ashizawa Atsuko, a cinematographer whose credits include Kurosawa's horror films *Loft* (2006) and *Retribution* (*Sakebi*, 2006), the pink film *Wet Hot Sake* (*Nuru nuru kankan*, Nishiyama Yôichi, 1996), Satô Hisayasu's **V-Cinema** titles *Naked Blood* (*Megyaku/NAKED BLOOD*, 1996) and *In the Thicket* (*Yabu no naka*, 1996), and Manda Kunitoshi's *Unloved* (2001).

There is a strong women's presence in the field of festival curating, with important figures including Araki Keiko of the **PIA Film Festival** (since 1992); Ono Seiko and Fujioka Asako of Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival; and Tomiyama Katsue, the cofounder (with Kawanaka Nobuhirô) of the Image Forum center for experimental film (see *JISHU EIGA*), and also in domestic and international promotion, with the wife and daughter of **Kawakita Nagamasa**, Kashiko and Kazuko, proving instrumental in introducing Japanese films overseas from the prewar period onward.

This current situation is in marked contrast to the first decades of the industry, in which women were notably absent even in front of the camera. All female roles were originally played by specialist male actors known as *oyama* (also *onnagata*), a continuation of the long-established tradition in Japan's stage arts (the career in Hollywood of **Aoki Tsuru**, the wife of **Hayakawa Sessue**, provides an interesting counterpoint). Attempts to modernize such practices inherited from theater, given impetus by the **Pure Film Movement**, led to the first billed appearance of a female performer, Hanayagi Harumi, in Kaeriyama Norimasa's films *The Girl in the Mountain* (*Shinzan no otome*) and *The Glory of Life* (*Sei no kagayaki*), both produced by Tenkatsu and released in 1919. Though women had appeared on screen before the first Pure Film productions (Kurishima Sumiko acted in **M. Pathé's** *The New Peach Boy* [*Shin Momotarô*] in 1909 at the age of six, and women were also a presence in **Chain Drama** troupes), the practice did not become industry standard until 1921, with Kurishima appearing in the newly formed **Shochiku's** *The Poppy* (*Gubijinsô*), directed by Henry Kotani; Sawamura Haruko in *Souls on the Road* (*Rojô no reikon*), directed by Murata Minoru and Osanai Kaoru; and Mizutani Yaeko in **Nikkatsu's** *Winter Camellia* (*Kantsubaki*), directed by Hatanaka Ryôha. The last major production to make use of the male *oyama* was Tanaka Eizô's *The Kyoya Collar Shop* (*Kyôya eriten*, 1922) for Nikkatsu.

As the 1920s progressed, these early roles for women developed from the traditional staples of chaste and reserved mothers and daughters to a more American-inspired form of glamor, with actresses adopting the fashions, hair-styles, and makeup styles popularized by Hollywood actresses such as Clara Bow and Mary Pickford. The first screen examples of this new generation of Japanese women, popularly referred to as the *modan gâru* (“modern girl”) or *moga* (their male counterparts were known as the *modan bô*i, for “modern boy,” commonly abbreviated to *mobô*), can be traced back as early as *Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu*, 1920), directed by Thomas Kurihara, a Japanese actor newly returned from working in Hollywood, and scripted by **Tanizaki Junichirô**. Tanizaki later created literature’s archetypal *moga*, Naomi, in his novel *A Fool’s Love* (*Chijin no ai*), which was first serialized in the newspaper *Osaka Asahi Shinbun* in 1924. The public image of this social phenomenon of the Taishô period, which epitomized independence, decadence, and sexual promiscuity, resulted in a conservative backlash following the beginning of the Shôwa era in 1926, with the increasingly nationalistic cultural climate of the 1930s encouraging a return to traditional values for women. Nevertheless, numerous screen examples of *moga* appeared in this period, particularly in films produced by Shochiku, such as **Shimizu Hiroshi**’s *Eternal Heart* (*Fue no shiratama*, 1929) and *Japanese Girls at the Harbour* (*Minato no Nihon musume*, 1933), **Ozu Yasujirô**’s *Woman of Tokyo* (*Tôkyô no onna*, 1933), and Naruse Mikio’s *Three Sisters with Maiden Hearts* (*Otome-gokoro sannin kyôdai*, 1935) and *The Girl on Everyone’s Lips* (*Uwasa no musume*, 1935).

In 1932, Irie Takako became the first actress to capitalize on her star power and establish her own **independent** production studio, following the examples of actors such as **Bandô Tsumasaburô**, Arashi Kanjûrô, and Kataoka Chiezô some five years before. The first film produced at Irie Pro was *The Dawn of Manchuria and Mongolia* (*Manmô kenkoku no reimei*, 1932), directed by **Mizoguchi Kenji**, who had followed the actress from Nikkatsu (see WAR AND FILM). Irie Pro produced about a dozen films starring the actress, most of which were distributed by Shinkô Kinema (founded in 1931 from the older company Teikine). Several of these, including *The Water Magician* (*Taki no shiraito*, 1933), were directed by Mizoguchi, with other directors hired by Irie Pro including Abe Yutaka, Suzuki Shigeyoshi, and Tasaka Tomotaka. The company was dissolved in 1936, with Irie entering **Toho** for the duration of the war, later revitalizing her career in a number of “ghost cat” (*bakeneko* or *kaibyô*) films for Daiei in the 1950s (see HORROR).

The first woman director in Japan is considered to be Sakane Tazuko (1904–1975), who was also closely associated with Mizoguchi, working as an assistant director and editor on several of his films in the 1930s and credited as one of the screenwriters for *The Water Magician*. She made her directing

debut in 1936 with *First Figure* (*Hatsu sugata*), based on Émile Zola's 1880 novel *Nana* and produced by Dai-Ichi Motion Pictures, founded by Nagata Masaichi (see DAIEI), and distributed by Shochiku Kinema. The film was not a success, and with Nagata's company failing that same year, Sakane continued her career in film in the field of *bunka eiga* (see DOCUMENTARY), as an editor and screenwriter as well as a director.

Other important figures of the prewar period are **Atsugi Taka** and Suzuki Noriko, the latter a screenwriter who began her career at Nikkatsu, writing scripts for films including Suzuki Shigeyoshi's *Blue Eyes, Black Eyes* (*Sôbô kokubô*, 1933), adapted from a novel by the later president of Daiei, Kikuchi Kan; Abe Yutaka's *Trial Separation of a Young Couple* (*Wakafûfu shiken bekkyo*, 1934) and the two-part *Book of Love and Marriage* (*Renai to kekkon no sho*, 1936); Watanabe Kunio's *A Mother's Smile* (*Haha no hohoemi*, 1934); and Chiba Yasuki's *My Beloved Wife* (*Koi nyôbô*, 1935). She moved to Toho in 1938, where she scripted, among other films, Satô Takeshi's war film *Chocolate and Soldiers* (*Chokorêto to heitai*, 1938), with her last credited work being Murata Takeo's *Schoolgirl Diary* (*Jogakusei-ki*, 1941).

As Japanese society was democratized under the Occupation, women gained the right to vote in 1946. Nevertheless, the patriarchal hierarchy of the studio system, as in Hollywood, afforded little in the way of opportunities for women who wished to make films, even though the major studios, most notably Shochiku, recognized that a great proportion of their audiences were women. **Naruse Mikio** at Toho adapted a number of films by a novelist well known for her feminist themes, Hayashi Fumiko (1903–1951), including *Repast* (*Meshi*, 1951), *Late Chrysanthemums* (*Bangiku*, 1954), and *Floating Clouds* (*Ukigumo*, 1955). Although they were never directors, notable exceptions of women working in the industry include Nogami Teruyo, who worked as a continuity assistant to **Kurosawa Akira** in the 1950s and was a close collaborator with the director, later becoming his assistant producer on his films after *Dodesukaden* (1970) and his production manager from *Ran* (1985) onward, and Wada Natto, who scripted many works by her husband, **Ichikawa Kon**. It is perhaps not surprising though, that the first woman to direct a significant body of work, **Tanaka Kinuyo**, was already well-established as an actress, a typical situation for many of the women directors who followed. Tanaka directed six films, from her debut with *Love Letter* (*Koibumi*) in 1953 to *Love Under the Crucifix* (*Ogin-sama*) in 1962.

From the 1950s until the turn of the century, the main opportunity for women directors remained in documentary films and the independent sector. **Iwanami Productions** provided a nurturing environment for **Tokieda Toshie** and **Haneda Sumiko**, who made their debuts with *Report on Nursery Schools* (*Yôjiseikatsudan no hōkoku*) and *Women's College in the Village* (*Mura no*

fujin gakkyl) in 1953 and 1957, respectively. Another woman who worked in documentary came from a performing background: Miyagi Mariko, a singer and actress who appeared in films including Yamamoto Kajirô's *Holiday in Tokyo* (*Tôkyô no kyûjitsu*, 1958) and **Ichikawa Kon**'s *Ten Dark Women* (*Kuroi jûnin no onna*, 1961), and contributed her voice to numerous **anime** productions, including Japan's first animated color feature, *Legend of the White Serpent* (*Hakujaden*, 1958), made a number of films about the *Nemu no Ki Gakuen* ("Silk Tree School"), which she established in 1968 for the welfare of disabled children. These films were *Ballad of the Silk Tree* (*Nemu no ki no uta*, 1974), *Mother* (*Nemu no ki no uta ga kikoeru*, 1977), *Love Can Make a Rainbow* (*Niji o kakeru kodomo-tachi*, 1980), and *Hello, Kids!* (*Hello kids! Kodomotachi ganbare*, 1986). **Hidari Sachiko** also directed and starred in *The Far Road* (*Toi ippon no michi*, 1977), a social drama about the family of a railroad worker, while another former actress, Kurisaki Midori, made *The Love Suicides at Sonezaki* (*Sonezaki shinjû*, 1981) as a live-action Bunraku puppet film based on the play by Chikamatsu Monzaemon. All of these films were independent productions and have remained difficult for overseas audiences to view.

The most internationally famous Japanese woman to make films before the 1990s was Ono Yôko (1933–), the widow of John Lennon. An independent artist associated with the Fluxus movement, she made a number of experimental works, including *Match* (*Flux Film No. 14: One*, 1966), a five-minute short film featuring a slow-motion sequence of a match being struck; *Bottoms* (1967), a sequence of 365 celebrity buttocks in motion on a treadmill; and *Fly* (1970), in which a fly is followed in close-up crawling around a naked female body. However, Ono's films were made outside Japan, and like the works of Idemitsu Mako (1940–), an experimental filmmaker who spent 10 years living and working in America, belong more to discussions of avant-garde art than cinema.

Perhaps surprisingly, the pink film genre has provided opportunities for women to direct where the mainstream industry has not. Ôgimachi Kyôko made *Yakuza Geisha* for Ôkura Productions as early as 1965. Continuing the pattern established by Tanaka Kinuyo, Ôgimachi was primarily known as a performer, beginning her career during the 1950s as a bit player in the films of **Shintoho** and later at Ôkura Eiga (she was rumored to be the mistress of the company's president, Ôkura Mitsugi), and the film was her only one as a director. Nevertheless, a number of other performers in this field have subsequently made their names behind the camera, notably Tama Rumi, who debuted with *Revenge Sex: Girl Rape* (*Fukushû sekkusu: onna ga okasu*, 1981), and Yoshiyuki Yumi, with *Chronic Ruttng Adultery Wife* (*Mansei hatsujô furin-zuma*, 1996).

The most prolific, Hamano Sachi (born Sachiko Suzuki, 1948), is exceptional in that she did not hail from an acting background, but entered the industry by working briefly for **Wakamatsu Kôji**'s production company before going freelance, making her debut in 1970 with *17-Year-Old Free Love Tribe* (*Jûnanasai suki suki-zoku*) and establishing her own production company, Tantansha, to make, according to the director, over 400 films for this sector, sometimes under the male pseudonym Matoba Chise. Hamano has also directed several independent films with more emphatically feminist themes, including the docudrama *Midori Ozaki: In Search of a Lost Writer* (*Ozaki Midori o sagashite*, 1998); *The Cricket Girl* (*Koborogi-musume*, 2006), an omnibus film of three short stories by this forgotten woman novelist who lived between 1896 and 1971; and *Lily Festival* (*Yurisai*, 2001), about the sexual drives of the residents of a complex for the elderly. Women also work in the pink film industry in other capacities, including cinematographers and screenwriters. Satô Keiko, utilizing the pseudonym Asakura Daisuke, is the president of Kokuei, one of the five surviving production companies still operating in this market.

Since the late 1970s, the foundation of the PIA Film Festival (PFF) and other similar organizations to support *jishu eiga* has afforded women directors further opportunities to establish themselves. The beneficiary of the first PFF scholarship in 1984 for most-promising newcomer was Kazama Shiori (1966–), for her short work *0×0* (*Zero kakeru koto no zero*, 1984), which financed her second film, *Imitation Interior* (1985). Kazama went on to direct the features *How Old Is the River?* (*Fuyu no kappa*, 1994), *The Mars Canon* (*Kasei no kanon*, 2001), and *World's End Girlfriend* (*Sekai no owari*, 2004). The 13th PFF Scholarship film was *Yoshino's Barber Shop* (*Bâbâ Yoshino*, 2003), a comedy-drama about a rural village where all the boys have the same bowl-shaped haircuts, directed by Ogigami Naoko (1972–), who subsequently made *Kamome Diner* (*Kamome shokûdo*, 2006), about a Japanese woman who sets up a restaurant in Helsinki, and *Glasses* (*Megane*, 2007). Other films launched by PFF that have been screened overseas include Shibutani Noriko's *Bambi Bone* (2004), which documented the lives of two feral children living in the Tokyo suburbs, and Sode Yukiko's *Mime-mime* (*Maimu maimu*, 2008), about the growing pains of a teenage girl.

Following **Kawase Naomi**'s receiving the Caméra d'Or Award at Cannes for *Suzaku* (*Moe no Suzaku*) in 1997, the number of women who have established successful careers as filmmakers has continued to grow steadily. Matsui Hisako (1946–) emerged from a background in television production to make *Solitude Point* (*Yukie*, 1998), in which a Japanese nurse falls in love with the Korean War veteran she cares for (played by Bo Svenson) and moves to America with him, succumbing to Alzheimer's disease in later life,

and *Oriume* (2003), which again raised awareness of the disease as a family is left caring for their aging grandmother. Shindô Kaze (1976–), the granddaughter of **Shindô Kanetô**, made her feature debut at the age of 23 with the lesbian love drama *Love/Juice* (2000), following it up with other films, including *Princess in an Iron Helmet* (*Korogare! Tamako*, 2006), a quirky comedy about a beauty-salon owner who lives a childlike fantasy life. In 2002, Nishikawa Miwa (1974–) made *Wild Berries* (*Hebi ichigo*, 2002), a black comedy revolving around the members of a dysfunctional family that was produced by **Kore'eda Hirokazu** after she had worked as an assistant director on his *Distance* (*Disutansu*, 2001). Nishikawa followed her debut with *Sway* (*Yureru*, 2006), a drama about two brothers who find themselves facing each other in court following the accidental death of a childhood friend; a section in the 10-part omnibus of stories by Natsume Sôseki, *Ten Nights of Dreams* (*Yume jû-ya*, 2006); and *Dear Doctor* (*Dia dokutâ*, 2009), a psychological drama about the mysterious hidden past of a provincial doctor that was voted the best film of its year by many Japanese critics, including those at the magazine *Kinema Junpô*.

Tanada Yuki (1975–) learned filmmaking at Image Forum, and her early short film *Guinea Pig* (*Moru*, 2001) won a Grand Prix at PFF, while the commercial success of her documentary *Takada Wataru: A Japanese Original* (*Takada Wataru teki*, 2004), about the legendary Japanese folk singer of the title, led to further works, including *Moon and Cherry* (*Tsuki to cheri*, 2004), in which a virginal university student joins an erotic writing club and finds himself the subject of a series of stories by the club's only female member, and *Ain't No Tomorrows* (*Oretachi ni asu wa naissu*, 2008), about the burgeoning sex lives of a group of high-school students. Tanada also wrote the script for *Sakuran* (2007), a baroque portrait of an Edo-period brothel starring Tsuchiya Anna, which also marked the film directing debut of Ninagawa Mika (1972–), who had already established her name in the world of photography.

Another alumnus of Image Forum's training program is Iguchi Nami (1967–), whose films include *The Cat Leaves Home* (*Inuneko*, 2004), a feature-length adaptation of an 8mm *jishu eiga* short made in 2001 that details the troubled friendship between two girl roommates who fall for the same man, and *Sex Is No Laughing Matter* (*Hito no sekkusu o warauna*, 2007), in which an art tutor finds herself conducting a relationship with one of her students. In 2006, Momoi Kaori (1951–), a prolific actress who appeared in the Russian director Aleksandr Sokurov's *The Sun* (*Solntse*, 2005) and the Hollywood production of *Memoirs of a Geisha* (Rob Marshall, 2005), directed *Faces of a Fig Tree* (*Ichijiku no kao*), an unorthodox family drama with art design by **Kimura Takeo**. *German + Rain* (*Jâman + ame*, 2006), an eccentric comedy about an irrepressible 16-year-old misfit who dreams of

becoming a pop idol, was funded by Cineastes Organization Osaka (CO2) and played a number of prominent international film festivals. The director, Yokohama Satoko (1978–), followed it with *The Bare Essence of Life* (*Urutora mirakuru rabu sutôri*, 2009), about a farmer who falls in love with a teacher who has recently moved to the countryside from Tokyo. In 2009, Andô Momoko (1982–), the daughter of actor-director Okuda Eiji (1950–), made *Kakera: A Piece of Our Life* (*Kakera*), a drama focused on a romantic relationship between two young women.

While such works as these might be seen as constituting a “woman’s film” genre, with their focus on family, interpersonal relationships, and female subjectivity, the number of female directors who have made films in the genres of horror, science fiction, and fantasy without any tangible emphasis on gender politics should also be noted. These include Satô Shimako, who directed *Wizard of Darkness* (*Eko eko azaraku: Wizard of Darkness*, 1995) and its sequels (see J-HORROR) and the fantasy movie based on the works of **Edogawa Rampo**, *K-20: Legend of the Mask* (*K-20: Kaijin nijû mensô*, 2008); Fujiwara Kei, who moved behind the camera following her appearances in **Tsukamoto Shinya**’s films, notably *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (*Tetsuo*, 1989), to direct the gory cult movie *Organ* (*Orugan*, 1996), about an underground body-parts trading operation; Asato Mari, who directed *The Boy from Hell* (*Jigoku kozô*, 2004), the first of a six-film series based on the **ero guro** stories of manga writer Hino Hideshi, and *Twilight Syndrome: Dead Go Round* (*Towairaito shindorômu: Deddo gôrando*, 2008), based on a series of video games; and Tominaga Mai, whose *Wool 100%* (*Ūru 100%*, 2006), a fantasy fable featuring two elderly junk-collecting sisters, featured stop-motion animation sequences.

With such developments as the annual Peaches Festival (Momo-matsuri), established in 2006 by Ôno Atsuko as a joint venture between the Eurospace theater and The Film School of Tokyo (*Eiga Bigakkô*) to produce and present short films by the school’s recent women graduates, it is reasonable to assume that the number of women working in the industry will increase further.

Y

YAKUSHO KÔJI (役所広司, 1956–). Yakusho Kôji is a versatile and charismatic actor who first gained international recognition through his starring role as the dispirited accountant who finds emotional release through ballroom dancing in *Shall We Dance?* (*Shall we dansu?*, 1996), directed by Suô Masayuki for **Daiei**. The film quickly became the most successful Asian title of all time in America upon its release there in 1997, until it was out-grossed by Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (*Wo hu cang long*) in 2000. Its surprise overseas acclaim coincided with Yakusho's appearances in Japan's top-grossing, live-action domestic release of the year, *Lost Paradise* (*Shitsurakuen*, Morita Yoshimitsu, 1997), in which an impossible romantic affair between two already married professionals leads to a double suicide pact (or *shinjû*); as the released convict attempting to atone for his sins in **Imamura Shôhei's** *The Eel* (*Unagi*, 1997), winner of that year's Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival; and as the police detective haunted by inner demons in **Kurosawa Kiyoshi's** breakthrough hit *Cure* (*Kyua*, 1997), one of many roles for the director that include parts in *Charisma* (*Karisuma*, 2000), *Doppelganger* (*Dopperugengâ*, 2003), and *Retribution* (*Sakebi*, 2006). *Shall We Dance?* and *The Eel* earned him the Japan Academy Award for Best Actor in 1996 and 1997 respectively, while in 1998 he was commended by the Minister of Education in Japan.

Born in Nagasaki as Hashimoto Kôji, Yakusho took his stage name from his early career path as a civil servant in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward (*yakusho* means "government office"). He began acting on stage in 1978 and by 1983 was playing in the title role in NHK's popular weekly prime-time period drama *Tokugawa Ieyasu*. After a number of small supporting roles, he made his first significant appearance in **Itami Jûzô's** *Tanpopo* (*Tanpopo*, 1985), a comedy about a recently bereaved woman and her attempts to transform her deceased husband's noodle shop into the best in the area. His first lead role was in the Japanese–Swiss coproduction *Another Way* (*Anazâ wei: D kikan jôhō*, Yamashita Kôsaku, 1988), and in 1990 he appeared in another international collaboration, this time with Russia, *Under Aurora* (*Ôrora no shita de*, Gotô Toshio and Petras Abukiavicus, 1990).

Yakusho's other major appearances include playing the Peruvian-born Japanese driver held up at gunpoint by an on-the-run gangster in *Kamikaze Taxi* (1995), a crime film exploring national identity that was originally made as a two-part television film broadcast in 1994 as *Angel of Revenge: Kamikaze Taxi* (*Fukushû no tenshi: Kamikaze taxi*), and the first of his several appearances for the director Harada Masato, which also include the 2001 reconstruction of the **Asama Mountain Lodge Incident**, *The Choice of Hercules* (*Totsunyûseyo! Asama sansô jiken*); in Oguri Kôhei's mystical rural drama *The Sleeping Man* (*Nemuru otoko*, 1996); as the Edo-period magistrate entrusted with cleaning up small-town corruption in *Dora Heita* (2000), a tragicomic *jidai-geki* directed by **Ichikawa Kon**; as the bus driver who survives a violent hijacking attempt in **Aoyama Shinji's** *Eureka* (*Yurika*, 2001); and as the prewar government censor in Hoshi Mamoru's *University of Laughs* (*Warai no daigaku*, 2004), adapted from a stage play written by the comedian and playwright Mitani Kôki. Yakusho has also appeared in several high-profile international releases, including Rob Marshall's *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005) and Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Babel* (2006), playing the father of **Kikuchi Rinko**. In 2009, he starred in his first feature as a director, *Toad's Oil* (*Gaman no abura*), about a stock market trader who, after his son is hospitalized in a traffic accident, succumbs to nostalgic memories about a traveling salesman selling bogus cure-all drafts whom he encountered during his childhood.

YAKUZA (ヤクザ). The term *yakuza* refers to the Japanese mafia, organized crime syndicates with roots stretching back to the illicit gambling gangs of the early Edo period that consolidated their power in the postwar era through operations such as black marketing, extortion, and real estate. The term derives from the phonetic reading of the number sequence “893” (*ya-ku-za*), a losing hand in a traditional card game. *Yakuza* gangs are organized around a hierarchical clan-based structure, with members pledging their allegiance to a gang boss known as an *oyabun* and operating in accordance with a moral code known as *jingi* (“humanity and justice”); the term *gokudô* (“the extreme way”) is also used to refer to the *yakuza* code. The *yakuza* film has formed a significant genre since the 1960s, when it enjoyed its peak in popularity, although its cultural context means it has followed a trajectory distinct from Hollywood gangster movies. With *yakuza* characters still a ubiquitous feature of today's cinema, the scope of the genre is vast.

Films based on criminals and wandering gamblers (a specific genre of story known as *matatabi-mono*) have existed since the very beginning of Japanese cinema. Early antecedents to the *yakuza* genre, such as Makino Masahiro's nine-part series between 1952 and 1954 about the real-life outlaw

Shimizu no Jirôchô (1820–1893), which began with *Adventures of Jirocho* (*Jirôchô Sangokushi: Daiichibu: Jirôchô uridasu*), as well as the same director's *Yakuza Festival Music* (*Yakuza bayashi*, 1954), focused on Edo-period gangsters, however, and thus belonging more to discussions of the *jidai-geki* field that was dominant during the decade. Modern-day *yakuza* characters still appeared in a number of films, such as **Kurosawa Akira**'s *Drunken Angel* (*Yoidore tenshi*, 1948), in which **Mifune Toshirô** played a gangster who is treated for tuberculosis. Ishii Teruo at **Shinto** made a series of *film noir*-style works set in the criminal underworld of illicit prostitution, including *Flesh Pier* (*Nyotai sanbashi*, 1958) and the “line” series of *White Line* (*Shirosen himitsu chitai*, 1958), *Black Line* (*Kurosen chitai*, 1960), and *Yellow Line* (*Ôsen chitai*, 1960), also directing Kubo Naoko as a female gang boss in several installments of the series inaugurated by Taguchi Satoshi's *Queen Bee* (*Joôbachî*, 1958).

In 1961, Ishii moved to **Toei**, the company most associated with the genre, where he directed *The Flower, the Storm, and the Gang* (*Hana to arashi to gyangu*), a comic crime drama featuring **Takakura Ken** and Tsuruta Kôji as members of an extended criminal family with mobster connections, whose success led to 10 sequels and established the actors as the studio's leading stars of the era. They also appeared together in Sawashima Tadashi's *Theater of Life* (*Jinsei gekijô: Hishakaku*, 1963), a tale of Taishô-era gang rivalry adapted from a novel by Ozaki Shirô (1898–1964) that had already been filmed on several occasions. Though **Uchida Tomu**'s 1936 film of the same name for **Nikkatsu** is unrelated to this story, this director did direct a new version for Toei in 1968 starring Tsuruta, entitled *Hishakaku and Kiratsune: A Tale of Two Yakuza* (*Jinsei gekijô: Hishakaku and Kiratsune*), while **Matsuda Toshio** adapted the story for Nikkatsu in 1964, in a film featuring Takahashi Hideki and Matsubara Chieko. It was the success of Sawashima's original film, however, that led to two immediate sequels from the same director and prompted Toei to launch its official *yakuza* line, known as *ninkyô eiga* (“chivalry films”).

The new *ninkyô eiga* genre largely replaced the company's *jidai-geki* output, which by the 1960s had become a popular staple of television drama. The films similarly focused on intergroup dynamics, with a particular emphasis on the conflict between the concepts of *giri* (“obligation to the group”) and *ninjô* (“humanity or compassion”). The production planner behind the new line was Shundô Kôji (1916–2001), a man with personal gang connections who had joined Toei in 1962. Shundô oversaw Toei's most prominent serials, including *A Story of Japanese Yakuza* (*Nihon kyôkaku-den*, 1964–1971, 11 parts), the first film of which was directed by Makino; *Tales of Showa Era Chivalry* (*Shôwa zankyô-den*, 1965–1972, nine parts), begun by Saeki Kiyoshi; and

Gambler (*Bakuchiuchi*, 1967–1972, 10 parts), begun by Ozawa Shigeiro. Under Shundô's hand, 37 of Toei's 55 productions were *yakuza* films in 1967.

During the 1960s, rival studios also made films featuring *yakuza*. At **Daiei**, the success of *Tough Guy* (*Akumyô*, Tanaka Tokuzô, 1961) effectively launched the career of **Katsu Shintarô** (see *ZATOICHI*), who appeared in a total of 16 films in the series, which ran until 1974. The studio also cast Ichikawa Raizô in the eight-part *Young Boss* (*Waka oyabun*) series that began in 1965 with Ikehiro Kazuo's film of the same name, and in 1966 the success of Tanaka Shigeo's *Woman Gambling Den* (*Onna no toba*) resulted in a further 16 films with its star Enami Kyôko, known as the *Woman Gambler* (*Onna tobakushi*) series. The first, directed by Yuge Tarô, was released in 1967. Nikkatsu's *mukokuseki akushun* ("borderless action films") drew on Western sources for their stories, characters, and iconography, creating fictional filmic worlds that had little to do with Japanese society and traditions. Gangster films from the studio, such as **Masuda Toshio's** *Rusty Knife* (*Sabita naifu*, 1958) and *Velvet Hustler* (*Kurenai no nagareboshi*, 1967), Furukawa Takumi's *Cruel Gun Story* (*Kenjû zankoku monogatari*, 1964), **Suzuki Seijun's** *Kanto Wanderer* (*Kantô mushuku*, 1963) and *Tokyo Drifter* (*Tôkyô nagaremono*, 1966), and Nomura Takashi's *A Colt Is My Passport* (*Koruto wa ore no pasupoto*, 1967), were primarily exercises in stylish entertainment. Nevertheless, the studio also launched a number of serials that were closer to the classic *ninkyô eiga* formula. Matsuo Akinori's *Symbol of a Man* (*Otoko no monshô*, 1963) launched a 10-film series starring Takahashi Hideki as a doctor who is forced to take over his father's role as *oyabun* after he is killed by a rival gang. The six films in the *Burai* series inaugurated by Masuda's *Gangster VIP* (*Burai yori: Daikanbu*, 1968) were all based on the real-life experiences of ex-gangster Fujita Gorô, as were *Goro Fujita's Wife of a Gangster* (*Fujita Gorô no anego*, 1969) and the two *Red-Lacquered Sword Sheath Moral Code* (*Shuzaya jingi*, 1969) films directed by Saitô Buichi in 1969. Fujita's experiences also formed the basis of **Fukasaku Kinji's** later work, *Graveyard of Honor* (*Jingi no hakaba*, 1975), for Toei.

In 1965, Shochiku cast the former gang boss Andô Noboru (1926–), released from a six-year prison sentence the previous year, in *Blood and Rules* (*Chi to okite*, Yuasa Yoshio, 1965), a crime film based on his life story. Andô left the world of the real-life *yakuza* behind him and went on to play screen gangsters in a further 10 titles for Shochiku, including Katô Tai's *History of a Man's Face* (*Otoko no kao wa rirekisho*, 1966), set in 1948, in which he played a local doctor who rallies his community against a group of *zainichi* mobsters. In 1967, he signed a contract with Toei, with his first lead role for the company in *Sentence: Eighteen Years* (*Chôeki jûhachinen*), again directed by Katô and set in the immediate postwar period. He appeared in numerous

films, including Satô Junya's *Organized Violence* (*Soshiki bôryoku: Kyôdai sakazuki*, 1969) and Fukasaku Kinji's *Sympathy for the Underdog* (*Bakuto gaijin butai*, 1971) and *Street Mobster* (*Gendai yakuza: Hitokiri yota*, 1972), as well as titles by the studio's lesser talents, and starred in **Toho's** first *yakuza* film, *The Wolves* (*Shussho iwai*, 1971), directed by Gosha Hideo. He revisited his own life story on film on several occasions, including *Yakuza and Feuds: The True Account of the Ando Gang* (*Yakuza to kôsô: Jitsuroku Andô-gumi*, 1973) and *True Account of the Ando Gang: Story of Attack* (*Jitsuroku Andô-gumi: Shûgekihen*, 1973), both directed by Satô Junya, and *The Sex Life and Flight of Gangster Ando Noboru* (*Andô Noboru no waga tôbô to sex no kiroku*, 1976) by Tanaka Noboru, a director better known for his work in the field of **Roman Porno**. His final role, before retiring from acting in 1979, was in Sadao Nakajima's *The Big Boss's Head* (*Sôchô no kubi*), although he appeared in cameos in several later films and **V-Cinema** titles.

The involvement of authentic underworld figures such as Fujita and Andô in the film world and the replacement of early icons such as Tsuruta, Takakura, and Fuji Junko (Shundô's daughter and Toei's first female star of the genre) with new blood such as Sugawara Bunta coincided with a change in the style of *yakuza* films during the early 1970s, from the formulaic and ritualized portrayals of group loyalty, individual heroics, and codes of honor of the *ninkyô eiga*, which had begun to wane in popularity by the end of the 1960s, to a grittier, more realistic approach known as *jitsuroku* ("true record"). The films of **Fukasaku Kinji** pioneered this new raw and chaotic form, making use of *cinéma vérité* techniques such as handheld cameras, freeze frames, and onscreen text, and nihilistically portraying a dog-eat-dog world of violent, craven thugs and corrupt law enforcers. His 1972 title *Street Mobster* (*Gendai yakuza: Hitokiri yota*) signaled the change, but it is best typified by *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Jingi naki tatakai*, 1973), whose commercial success spawned four immediate sequels, with the final one released in 1974, and a further three *New Battles Without Honor and Humanity* titles released between 1974 and 1976. Other directors making films during this period include Nakajima Sadao, with *Okinawa Yakuza War* (*Okinawa yakuza sensô*, 1976) and *Yakuza War: The Japanese Don* (*Yakuza sensô: Nihon no don*, 1977), and Yamashita Kôzaku, with *The Tattooed Hitman* (*Yamaguchi-gumi gaiden: Kyûshu shinkô sakusen*, 1974).

In 1974, Hollywood tackled the genre in Sydney Pollack's *The Yakuza*, featuring Robert Mitchum and Takakura in a script written by Robert Towne and Paul Schrader, based on a story by his brother Leonard Schrader. The Schrader brothers had close ties with Japan: Paul had written books and articles about Japanese cinema and later directed the 1985 film on **Mishima Yukio**, *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*, while Leonard wrote the script for

the 1979 film *The Man Who Stole the Sun* (*Taiyô o nusunda otoko*), directed by Hasegawa Kazuhiko. As a result, Pollack's film presented a more culturally sensitive image of the country than subsequent American releases such as Ridley Scott's *Black Rain* (1989), also featuring Takakura.

The director Furuhashi Yasuo directed Takakura in a number of more sophisticated and mature works at Toei, including *Winter Flower* (*Fuyu no hana*, 1978), in which he played a retired mobster who appoints himself the guardian of a murdered gang member's teenage daughter, and *Demon* (*Yasha*, 1985), in a similar role as a former gangster who retires to a small coastal village whose past comes back to haunt him in the form of **Kitano Takeshi**. Furuhashi also explored the links between politics and organized crime in *Winter Camellia* (*Kantsubaki*, 1992). But by and large, the popularity of the traditional *yakuza* film had begun to wane considerably by the late 1970s, leading Toei to experiment with titles such as the science fiction hybrid *A Homansu* (1986), the only film directed by its star, the 1970s action icon Matsuda Yûsaku (father of Matsuda Ryûhei), and *Gang Wives* (*Gokudô no onnatachi*, 1986), whose first installment, directed by Gosha Hideo from a book by journalist Ieda Shôko, led to a long run of sequels.

The genre found a new market with the creation of **Toei's** V-Cinema line, and the company announced that its 1994 production *The Man Who Shot the Don* (*Don o totta otoko*, Nakajima Sadao, 1994) would be its last theatrical *yakuza* release. The modest box-office returns did not, however, prevent it from reneging on its promise and releasing two nostalgic throwbacks to the *ninkyô eiga*, in the form of *A Story of Modern Chivalry* (*Gendai ninkyô-den*, 1997), directed by Furuhashi and starring Okuda Eiji, and *Remnants of Chivalry* (*Zankyô*, 1999), directed by Sekimoto Ikuo, as well as an homage to Fukasaku's classic *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* series, Sakamoto Junji's *Another Battle* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai*, 2000), which itself led to a sequel directed by Hashimoto Hajime, entitled *Another Battle: Conspiracy* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai: Bôsetsu*, 2003).

During the 1990s, several directors subverted or reworked the formula to investigate the inner psychology of their lawless protagonists, such as in Kitano Takeshi's *Sonatine* (*Sonachine*, 1993) and *Brother* (2000) and Mochizuki Rôkûrô's *Another Lonely Hitman* (*Shin: Kanashiki hittoman*, 1995) and *Onibi: The Fire Within* (*Onibi*, 1997), or those at the fringes of mobster groups, such as in **Aoyama Shinji's** *Helpless* (1996) and *Chinpira* (1996). Ishii Takashi brought a modern *noir*-ish stylistic sheen to thrillers such as *A Night in the Nude* (*Nûdo no yoru*, 1993), *Alone in the Night* (*Yoru ga mata kuru*, 1994), and *Gonin* (1995), in which various individuals take on the mob, while **Miike Takashi** has made numerous works in the genre in a variety of styles and registers, with his most interesting films, such as those in the

“Black Society” (*kuroshakai*) trilogy, investigating the schisms between different ethnic groups in Japan.

Yakuza characters have also regularly appeared as comic foils in films in which the main characters unwittingly get caught up in the criminal underworld, including Yaguchi Shinobu’s *Adrenalin Drive* (*Adorenarin doraibu*, 1999); Sabu’s *Postman Blues* (*Posutoman burûsu*, 1997), *Unlucky Monkey* (*Anrakkî monkî*, 1998), and *Monday* (2000); and Uchida Kenji’s *A Stranger of Mine* (*Unmei ja nai hito*, 2004) and *After School* (*Afutâ sukûru*, 2007).

YAMADA YÔJI (山田洋次, 1931–). Since entering **Shochiku** in 1954, where he initially served as an assistant director to Nomura Yoshitarô before making his debut with *The Stranger Upstairs* (*Nikai no tanin*) in 1961, Yamada Yôji has been responsible for creating many of the studio’s most popular, characteristic, and commercially successful works. He is best known for his *It’s Tough Being a Man* (*Otoko wa tsurai yo*) series, which began in 1969, with a new installment released at least once every year, and ended after 49 episodes (of which Yamada directed all but parts three and four) with the death of its star Atsumi Kiyoshi in 1996. Based on the adventures of the guileless traveling salesman Tora-san, the series allowed Shochiku to retain its family image through the difficult market of the 1970s and 1980s, in which many of its rivals turned to more exploitative genres.

Yamada has also directed the four films that comprised the *A Class to Remember* (*Gakkô*) series, which began in 1993 and looked at parent–student relationships in several different educational environments, with the final film, *A Class to Remember 4: Fifteen* (*Jûgosai: Gakkô IV*, 2000), adopting a road movie format in its tale of a bored high-school boy who plays truant and embarks on a quest to visit a 7,000-year-old cedar tree on Yakushima Island. He has also written screenplays for all of the entries in another of Shochiku’s most enduring franchises, the *Free and Easy* (*Tsuribaka nishshi*) series of *manga* adaptations, about two salarymen who forge a friendship through their shared love of fishing.

Outside of such series, Yamada has directed a number of stand-alone films containing, in varying degrees, his trademark mixture of whimsy and nostalgia tempered with pathos, a modicum of light humor and an empathy for the common man. Notable works include *Home from the Sea* (*Kôkyo*, 1972), about the harsh economic realities faced during a period of rapid industrial development and rural depopulation by a family living on an island in the Inland Sea who make their living transporting rocks to construction sites; *The Yellow Handkerchief* (*Shiawase no kiiroi hankachi*, 1977), a Hokkaido-set romantic road movie featuring **Takakura Ken** and based on a short story by Pete Hamill; and *Final Take: The Golden Age of the Movies* (*Kinema no*

tenchi, 1986), a fictionalized homage to the talents working at Shochiku in the early 1930s, during the transition from silent film to talkies.

Though immensely popular at home, Yamada's films have been considered too quintessentially Japanese to attract much serious critical attention overseas, with the exception of his three late-career departures into *jidai-geki* dramas based on the historical novels of Fujisawa Shûhei, all set during the dying days of the Edo period and featuring low-ranking samurai forced into picking up their swords to defend their honor: the Oscar-nominated *Twilight Samurai* (*Tasogare Seibei*, 2002), with Sanada Hiroyuki and **Miyazawa Rie**; *The Hidden Blade* (*Kakushi ken: oni no tsume*, 2004), with Nagase Masatoshi; and *Love and Honor* (*Bushi no ichibun*, 2006), with **SMAP** member Kimura Takuya. The trilogy was followed by *Kabei: Our Mother* (*Kâbê*, 2008), a portrayal of the family of a left-wing writer after he is imprisoned during the war for his opposition to the invasion of Manchuria.

YAMAGUCHI MOMOE (山口百恵, 1959–). Yamaguchi Momoe was an actress and pop idol whose singing career began in 1972 at the age of 13 with an appearance on the NTV talent show *Birth of a Star* (*Stâ tanjô*). Throughout the decade she released numerous singles and albums, then retired early in 1980 after marrying Miura Tomokazu (1952–), the actor with whom she was paired in so many of her roles that their onscreen outings together were affectionately known as Momo-Tomo films.

The two first appeared together in *The Izu Dancer* (*Izu no odoriko*, 1974), Yamaguchi's first leading role. This version of the oft-filmed story by **Kawabata Yasunari** marked the beginning of **Toho's** series of *bunrei eiga* literary adaptations directed by Nishikawa Katsumi, with Yamaguchi paired with Miura in films that include the 1975 version of **Mishima Yukio's** *The Sound of Waves* (*Shiosai*) and *Spring Koto* (*Shunkin shô*, 1976), from **Tanizaki Junichirô's** novella *A Portrait of Shunkin*. They also starred together in such romantic dramas for Toho as Wakasugi Mitsuo's *Autumn Interlude* (*Kaze tachinu*, 1976) and Kawasaki Yoshisuke's *Dances of Flame* (*Honnô no mai*, 1978), both heartbreaking tales set during the **war**, in which they played young lovers who are separated when Miura is drafted for military service. Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, who later directed them together in the San Francisco-set *Take Me Away* (*Furimukeba ai*, 1978), pastiched such narratives, with Miura appearing in a cameo as a young betrothed soldier in a sequence in his playful teen **horror** movie *House* (*Hausu*), originally released on a double bill with another Momo-Tomo vehicle in July 1977, *Hearts in the Mud* (*Doro darake no junjô*), directed by Tomimoto Sôkichi.

Their final film together before Yamaguchi's retirement was **Ichikawa Kon's** *The Old Capital* (*Koto*, 1980), another Kawabata adaptation. However,

Miura continues to act, with notable roles including Suwa Nobuhiro's improvisation piece, *M/Other* (1999), in which a professional couple's relationship comes under pressure when Miura's character takes his eight-year-old son from a former marriage into the household he shares with his partner after his ex-wife is injured in a traffic accident.

YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO (山口淑子, 1920–). An actress and singer born in Manchuria to Japanese parents (her father, Yamaguchi Fumio, was an employee of the South Manchuria Railway Company) and educated in Beijing, Yamaguchi Yoshiko first started appearing under the name Ri Kôran (the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese name Li Xianglan) in “national policy” films (*kokusaku eiga*) produced by the **Manchuria Film Association**. She was to become the studio's only major star and, because of her fluency in Mandarin, was promoted to audiences in Japan as a genuine Chinese actress sympathetic to Imperial Japan and as an ambassador of goodwill between Japan and the puppet state of Manchuria. For this she was sentenced for treason and collaboration by the Chinese government at the end of the war, avoiding execution only when it was revealed she was not a Chinese national. Yamaguchi's being used by the Japanese to promote a sense of pan-Asian unity can be compared to the use of Korean singer and actress Choe Seung-hui, promoted as Sai Shôki in Japan in records, live performances, and films that include Shinkô Kinema's *Dancer of the Peninsular* (*Hantô no maihime*, Kon Hidemi, 1936) and *Big Strong Man of Music* (*Dai kongô no fu*, Mizugae Ryûichi, 1938) for **Nikkatsu**.

After being discovered, Yamaguchi made her screen debut as Li Xiang Lan, playing a newlywed in *Honeymoon Express* (*Mitsugetsu kaisha*; Chinese title: *Mi yue kuai che*, 1938), a remake of a 1935 Nikkatsu comedy directed by Ôtani Toshio, entitled *The Spied-on Bride* (*Nozokareta hanayome*). The new version, set on a train from Manchuria to Beijing, featured an all-Chinese cast, with the exception of Yamaguchi, though it was directed by Ueno Shinji, a director recruited from Shinkô Kinema's Tokyo studios, who did not speak a word of the local language. More successful in Japan was Watanabe Kunio's overtly propagandist *Song of the White Orchid* (*Byakuran no uta*, 1939), a **Toho** coproduction in which she was cast as a young musical student who falls in love with a Japanese engineer, played by **Hasegawa Kazuo**, working on the South Manchuria Railway. It was the first of several times the two stars appeared onscreen together, including the same director's *Vow in the Desert* (*Nessa no chikai*, 1940) and Fushimizu Osamu's *China Nights* (*Shina no yoru*, 1940), a romance in which she plays a girl who is rescued by Hasegawa's military captain after her village is destroyed by the Imperial Army. The latter was a big success in Japan, although it featured a notorious

scene in which Yamaguchi is slapped by Hasegawa that was considered a huge insult by Chinese audiences and made Yamaguchi a hated figure in the country. The film was reissued in Japan after the war as *Suchow Nocturne* (*Soshû yakyoku*), due to the derogatory connotations of the word “Shina” in the original Japanese title.

Other works of the period include **Shimizu Hiroshi**’s *Sayon’s Bell* (*Sayon no kane*, 1943), a coproduction between Man’ei and **Shochiku** filmed in the then Japanese colony of Taiwan, in which she played an indigenous villager who sacrifices her life for a Japanese policeman. Many of the songs from the films she appeared in were popular hits, and a live appearance in Japan during the war, at the Toho-operated Nihon Gekijô theater in Tokyo’s Yurakuchô district on 11 February 1941, triggered the only riots in the country of the wartime period, when thousands of spectators found themselves unable to get into the theater, although the incident was hushed up in the nation’s media.

After the war, Yamaguchi left Manchuria to live in Japan, where she attempted to continue her career as an actress, this time playing under her own name. Many of her postwar roles, of which the best known is as the young singer with whom **Mifune Toshirô**’s famous painter is caught on camera by a photographer for the tabloid press in **Kurosawa Akira**’s *Scandal* (*Shûbun*, 1950), owed much to perceptions of the actress’s intriguing public persona, both as a possible wartime collaborator and an exotic and potentially dangerous outsider. Her films from this era include Inagaki Hiroshi’s *Woman of Shanghai* (*Shanghai no onna*, 1952) and *Wind, Clouds, and the 1000-ryo Boat* (*Fûun senryôsen*, 1952), both made for **Toho**. During the 1950s, she attempted to launch a career in America, appearing as Shirley Yamaguchi on Broadway and in the Hollywood films *Japanese War Bride* (King Vidor, 1952), *House of Bamboo* (Samuel Fuller, 1955), and *Navy Wife* (Edward Bernds, 1956), in all of which she was cast as the submissive partner of an American. She also appeared in a number of films produced in Hong Kong by the Shaw Brothers company between 1952 and 1958, including a coproduction with Toho, *The Legend of the White Serpent* (*Byaku fujin no yôren*, Toyoda Shirô, 1956), based on a Chinese legend about a young man who falls in love with a beautiful woman who is really a snake in human form (the same story formed the basis of Toei Animation’s first color feature in 1958; see *ANIME*).

From 1952 until 1957, Yamaguchi was married to the Japanese–American artist Noguchi Isamu (1904–1988). After the marriage broke up, Yamaguchi married the Japanese diplomat Ôtaka Hiroshi (1958–2001) and, adopting his family name, retired from film acting to move to Rangoon, Burma, where he was posted. Her final Japanese films, *A Holiday in Tokyo* (*Tôkyô no kyûjitsu*, Yamamoto Kajirô) and *Story of Ankhôr Wat: Beautiful Sorrow* (*Ankôru watto monogatari: utsukushiki aishû*, Watanabe Kunio), were both released by Toho

that same year, although her final film credit is for another film for Shaw Brothers, the Leo Tolstoy adaptation *Unforgettable Night* (*Yi ye feng liu*, dir. Wancang Bu, 1958).

Yamaguchi later reentered the public sphere presenting the current affairs television program *Sanji no anata* (*You at 3 O'Clock*) between April 1969 and March 1974, which dealt with topical political issues such as the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia and the plight of the Palestinians. In 1974 she went into politics, after being elected to the House of Councillors (the upper House of the Japanese parliament), serving three terms until 1992, and subsequently became an active voice championing the rights of **women** across Asia. In 1987, her autobiography, *Ri Kôran: Watashi no hansei* (trans. *Half My Life as Ri Koran*), cowritten with Fujiwara Sakura, was published, while her life story was adapted for the television movies *Sayonara Ri Kôran* (Fujita Meiji, 1989) for Fuji TV and *Ri Kôran* (Horikawa Tonkô, 2007) for TV Tokyo, and formed the basis of Ian Buruma's novel *The China Lover* (2008).

YAMAMOTO SATSUO (山本薩夫, 1910–1983). Yamamoto Satsuo was a pioneering force in **independent** production, during the 1950s especially, whose work was characterized by its strong left-wing content. He was an active member of the Japanese Communist Party throughout much of his life, and his early association with anti-authoritarian movements led to his expulsion from Waseda University in 1932. The following year he began his filmmaking career at **Shochiku**, starting out as an assistant to **Mikio Naruse**, whom he followed to to P.C.L. (see TOHO COMPANY) in 1934, making his debut there with *The Young Miss* (*Ojôsan*) in 1937. Noteworthy early works include the two-part *Mother's Song* (*Haha no kyoku*, 1937), a **haha-mono** that drew inspiration from the Hollywood melodrama *Stella Dallas* (King Vidor, 1937).

During the **war**, after directing such obligatory propaganda as the films *Winged Victory* (*Tsubasa no gaika*, 1942), a tale of two brothers who become aviators that boasted a script written by **Kurosawa Akira**, and *Searing Wind* (*Neppu*, 1943), a home-front drama set in an iron factory, he was drafted to serve in China in 1943. After Japan's defeat, he returned to Toho, where he codirected *War and Peace* (*Sensô to heiwa*, 1947), an antiwar film about a shell-shocked soldier who struggles to cope with peacetime after returning from China to find his wife remarried; featuring **documentary** and semi-documentary scenes shot by **Kamei Fumio**, the film was heavily **censored** and its release postponed by the Occupation authorities. Yamamoto was soon fired from Toho due to his involvement during its 1948 labor disputes and started producing his films independently. He returned to the subject of war on several occasions, notably in *Who Turned Me into This Kind of Woman?*



Ri Kôran, the Chinese alias of Yamaguchi Yoshiko, in a publicity still from 1942 for the Manchuria Film Association (Manshû Eiga Kyôkai).

(*Konna onna ni dare ga shita*, 1949), the story of a nurse in a field hospital, apparently modeled on Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*; *Vacuum Zone* (*Shinkû chitai*, 1952); the Philippines-set *To the End of the Sun* (*Hi no*

hate, 1954); and the *Men and War* (*Ningen to sensō*, 1970-73) trilogy. He also made the feature-length documentary *Vietnam* (*Betonamu*, 1969).

Other favored topics of Yamamoto's include the oppression of **women**, as in *Ballad of a Cart* (*Niguruma no uta*, 1959), a portrayal of a marriage spanning from the Meiji period to the end of the war, and political corruption, both small-scale, as in *Trouble About a Typhoon* (*Taifū sōdōki*, 1956), in which a village destroys its undamaged school to claim additional compensation after being hit by a typhoon, and *Red Water* (*Akai mizu*, 1963), in which councilors and a local priest connive to capitalize from the development of a hot springs resort, and large-scale, as in *Total Eclipse* (*Kinkanshiku*, 1975), a damning indictment of the "construction state" (*doken kokka*), in which ruling politicians collude with private construction companies on unnecessary public developments. Other significant socially engaged works include *Street of Violence* (*Pen itsuwarazu: Bōryokugai*, 1950), about a journalist's fight to expose organized crime, and *The Ivory Tower* (*Shiroi kyōtō*, 1966), about the election of an unscrupulous surgeon to the head of a university medical department.

Though his postwar works were mainly produced **independently** through a number of companies, including his own Yamamoto Pro (founded in 1955), they were distributed by larger studios, including **Shinto**ho, Shochiku, and especially **Daiei**, to which he returned under contract in 1960. Here he made a number of more commercial films, including the first two installments of the eight-film *Band of Assassins* (*Shinobi no mono*, 1962–1966) series of **ninja jidai-geki** starring Ichikawa Raizō; *Zatoichi the Outlaw* (*Zatōichi rōyaburi*, 1967), the 16th entry in the long-running series starring **Katsu Shintarō**; and the period ghost story *The Bride of Hades* (*Botan dōrō*, 1968; see **HORROR**; SANYŪTEI ENCHŌ). His final film before his death of cancer in 1983 at the age of 73 was *Nomugi Pass: Fresh Pastures* (*Nomugi tōge: Shinryoku-hen*, 1982), the concluding part of *Nomugi Pass* (*Ā, Nomugi tōge*, 1979), about the appalling conditions of silk farm workers during the Meiji period.

YAMANAKA SADAŌ (山中貞雄, 1909–1938). Yamanaka Sadao was a pre-war filmmaker who worked exclusively within the **jidai-geki** genre, directing films for a number of companies in his home city of Kyoto, including Tōa Kinema, Shinkō Kinema, and **Nikkatsu**. His work was noted for its strong emphasis on character and sense of social awareness. During an all-too-brief career, after his debut *Sleeping with a Long Sword* (*Iro no Genta: Dakinu no nagadosu* (1932), he directed 26 titles, although this total takes into account the fact that *Jirokichi the Rat* (*Nezumi kozō Jirokichi*, 1933) was released in three parts and *The White-hooded Burglar* (*Kaitō shirozokin*, 1935) in two.

Tragically, only three of his works survive complete: *The Pot Worth a Million Ryo* (*Tange Sazen yowa: Hyakuman ryō no tsubo*, 1935), *Soshun Kouchi-*

yama (*Kouchiyama Sôshun*, 1936), and his best-known work, *Humanity and Paper Balloons* (*Ninjô kami fûsen*, 1937). Set in an Edo-period slum, this last film portrayed a debilitated samurai forced into selling his sword to feed himself while his wife scrapes a meagre living making paper balloons. It has been seen as addressing the same contemporary concerns as the *shomin-geki* but within a historical setting. It was the only film the director made in Tokyo, having moved to the capital to work at P.C.L. shortly before it became **Toho**. On the day of its premier, he was drafted to serve in Manchuria. He died in a field hospital in China on 17 September 1938.

YANAGIMACHI MITSUO (柳町光男, 1945–). Yanagimachi Mitsuo is an **independent** director who made his debut in 1976 with *Godspeed You! Black Emperor* (*Goddo spîdu yû! Black Emperor*), a 16mm **documentary** made by his own Production Gunrô company, about Tokyo's *bôsôzoku* biker gangs, whose title was later appropriated by a Montreal-based post-rock band. He followed this with *A Nineteen-Year-Old's Map* (*Jûjyûsai no chizu*, 1979), a fictional feature about a socially alienated student working as a newspaper delivery boy who plots to blow up the houses of his customers. The film was based on a novel by Nakagami Kenji, an author from the stigmatized *burakumin* caste (see also AOYAMA SHINJI) who also wrote the script for Yanagimachi's best-known work, *Fire Festival* (*Himatsuri*, 1985). The latter title, with cinematography by **Tamura Masaki**, was an atmospheric environmental allegory about a boorish lumberjack opposed to a new marine park development in his village who arrogantly assumes the role of both community leader and an emissary for the local Shintô deities.

Yanagimachi's other works include the rural drama *Farewell to the Land* (*Saraba itoshiki daichi*, 1982), also shot by Masaki, in which a father's descent into drug addiction and violence due to guilt over his two sons' deaths in a boating accident similarly acted as an allegory for the rupture between man and his environment; *Shadow of China* (*Chaina shadô*, 1990), a lavish U.S coproduction set in Hong Kong, starring John Lone as a refugee from mainland China who has fled his homeland due to the Cultural Revolution and reinvented himself as a prosperous banker; and *About Love, Tokyo* (*Ai ni tsuite, Tôkyô*, 1992), a pessimistic love story between a Japanese-born Chinese girl and a Chinese student who supports himself working in an abattoir.

Though his early work in particular was critically well regarded, Yanagimachi's overall output has unfortunately been relatively small. *Who's Camus Anyway?* (*Kamyu nante shiranai*, 2005), a self-reflective drama about a group of university students' attempts to complete a film course project about the apparently motiveless murder of an old woman by a high-school student, was

released 10 years after his previous film *The Wandering Peddlers* (*Tabisuru pao-jiang-hu*, 1995), a documentary about itinerant merchants in Taiwan.

YOSHIZAWA COMPANY (YOSHIZAWA SHÔTEN, 吉沢商店). The Yoshizawa Company was the first enterprise in Japan to specialize in film production. The exact date of its establishment is unknown, although when it pioneered the early film market, it was being run by Kawaura Kenichi (1868–1957), who had acquired what was originally a family business through marriage.

The Yoshizawa Company's early interests included manufacturing and selling magic lantern slides and projection equipment as well as organizing shows, before becoming an early importer of the Lumière brothers' Cinématographe machine, which Kawaura acquired in 1897 through Cipione Braccialini, an Italian advisor to the Japanese army. The company soon became a significant importer and exhibitor of French films, and in 1900 it began manufacturing its own projectors. In 1903, it established the first theater intended specifically for the exhibition of motion pictures, the *Denki-kan* (Electric Theater) in Tokyo's Asakusa District. In 1902, Kawaura opened a London office, and in 1904 traveled to the St. Louis International Exposition in the United States, where he showed topical "actualities" of daily life and scenes from the Russo–Japanese War (1904–1905), filmed by a unit headed by one of Japan's first cameramen, Chiba Kichizô. He continued to travel around America for several years, during which time he visited Thomas Edison's studios.

In 1907, Kawaura returned to Tokyo, where in January 1908 the company constructed the country's first purpose-built film studio, the Meguro Studio (*Meguro satsuei-jo*) in Tokyo, based on his observations of American filmmaking practices and renowned for its all-glass shooting stage. In 1910, Yoshizawa opened the Luna Park amusement park in Asakusa, modeled on New York's Coney Island, although unfortunately it was destroyed the following year in a fire. Kawaura retired from the business after his company merged with three of its competitors to form **Nikkatsu** in 1912.

Notable fiction films produced by the Yoshizawa Company include *One's Own Sin* (*Ono ga tsumi*), a *Shinpa* drama based on a turn-of-the-century novel by Kikuchi Yûhō that was adapted on numerous occasions before the Pacific War, with Yoshizawa responsible for over half a dozen installments or new versions of the tale between 1908 and 1912; *The Green of the Pines* (*Matsu no midori*, 1911), made from a script solicited from the general public as part of a competition held by the company's *Katsudô shashinkai* magazine; and *The Golden Demon* (*Konjiki yasha*, 1912), adapted from the Meiji-era novel by Ozaki Kôyô (1868–1903). Note that during this early period no directors were credited for these productions.

Z

ZAINICHI (在日). The term *zainichi* strictly means all foreigners domiciled in Japan, but it is most often used to refer to Koreans (*zainichi kankoku-jin*), Japan's largest ethnic minority, with a population estimated in 2000 at approximately 635,000 (the figure excludes short-term visitors such as students), although they have been largely kept invisible within Japan's cultural spheres. The issues surrounding Koreans in Japan are complex and controversial. Under the Japan–Korea Annexation Treaty of 1910, the people of Korea became subjects of Imperial Japan until the end of the Pacific War in 1945 (see WAR AND FILM). As happened with Japan's other territories of Taiwan and Manchuria, increasing attempts were made to suppress the colony's culture and language, with Japanese imposed as the peninsula's "official" language during the 1930s.

Shimizu Hiroshi's *Mr. Thankyou (Arigatô-san, 1936)* provides a rare acknowledgment of the Korean presence from the prewar period, in an improvised scene in which the main characters encounter a group of itinerant laborers working on the road between Izu and Tokyo. Labor shortages in Japan from 1939 onward led to the mass forced conscription of Koreans from the peninsula to work in factories, mines, and construction, as well as to serve in the military. The number of Koreans during the war forced to serve as military prostitutes, or "comfort women," has also blighted Korean–Japanese relationships in the postwar period. Following Japan's defeat, there were approximately 2.4 million Koreans in Japan, many of whom were repatriated, leaving 650,000 by 1946. The issue of Korean residents' rootlessness became more acute with the partition of their homeland in 1948. A second phase of repatriation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took place in the 1960s and early 1970s, although this time it was voluntary.

Historically Koreans have faced a significant degree of discrimination, with their presence disrupting deeply engrained notions of the homogeneity of the Japanese people. Even those born and brought up in the country and with a closer affinity to it than Korea are treated as outsiders and have to adopt a Japanese name and undergo a process of naturalization in order to become Japanese citizens, although some prominent public figures have

opted to use their original Korean names. Until 1991, they were required legally to be fingerprinted in order to reside in Japan, yet many second- or third-generation *zainichi* only speak Japanese and are difficult to physically distinguish from ethnic Japanese.

The subject of discrimination against Koreans resident in Japan began to raise its head in film in works such as **Ôshima Nagisa's** *Death by Hanging* (*Kôshikei*, 1968) and Toyoda Shirô's *Portrait of Hell* (*Jigokuhen*, 1969), but it was largely confined to independent or *jishu eiga* productions, such as the 16mm films *Pig Chicken Suicide* (*Tonkei shinjû*, 1981), which featured a romance between two *zainichi* outcasts, one of whom works in an abattoir, and *Noisy Requiem* (*Tsuitô no zawameki*, 1988), about a social outcast with a hatred of war veterans and Korean immigrant workers. Both films were directed by Matsui Yoshihiko. It was not until the 1990s that the subject became treated seriously in mainstream cinema, with *All Under the Moon* (*Tsuki wa dotchi ni dete iru*, 1993), directed by the most prominent *zainichi* filmmaker, **Sai Yôichi**, celebrating the colorful world of Tokyo's ethnic underclasses in a romantic comedy.

Other commercially successful films include Yukisada Isao's *GO* (2001), a teen drama about a boy born on the wrong side of the racial divide; Izutsu Kazuyuki's *Pacchigi!* (2004), a nostalgic high-school romance set in Kyoto in 1968, between a Japanese boy and a Korean girl, which was voted best film of its year by the critics of *Kinema Junpô*; and its sequel, *Pacchigi! Love & Peace* (2007), which situated the drama in the heated climate of Tokyo in 1974.

Personal and political identity continues to be a theme in the independent works of new *zainichi* filmmakers who have emerged since the turn of the millennium. Lee Sang-Il won the Grand Prix at the **PIA Film Festival** with *Blue Chong* (*Ao Chong*, 2000), his graduation piece from the Japan Academy of Moving Images (*Nihon Eiga Gakkô*), which he followed with *Border Line* (2002), a road movie set in Hokkaido, although his more recent films, such as *69* (2004), *Scrap Heaven* (*Sukurappu heben*, 2005), and *Hula Girls* (*Fura gâru*, 2005), have seen him move away from *zainichi* topics into more mainstream territory. In **documentary** film, Matsue Tetsuaki made *Annyong Kimchee* (*Annyon kimuchi*, 1999), a self-portrait of how his own sense of cultural identity is thrown into question following the death of his grandfather, which was his graduation piece from the Japan Academy of Moving Images; and *Identity* (2004), a portrait about *zainichi* performers in the pornographic AV (adult video) industry that was made for this market and features un-simulated sex scenes. In 2006, Yang Yonghi won the Special Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival for *Dear Pyongyang*, an intimate video portrait of her father, who, despite having lived in Osaka since the Japanese annexation of Korea, remains tenaciously loyal to the communist regime in North

Korea. The film follows the daughter and her two parents as they travel to Pyongyang to visit her three estranged brothers, who were repatriated there as teenagers in 1971.

ZATOICHI (ZATÔICHI, 座頭市). Zatoichi is a fictional character created by the novelist Shimozawa Kan (1892–1968), who first appeared onscreen in a popular *chanbara* series produced by **Daiei**. Set in the Edo period, the films feature a blind swordsman who masquerades as an itinerant masseur while also making his living from gambling as he wanders from town to town fighting injustice.

In the first Zatoichi film, *The Tale of Zatoichi* (*Zatôichi monogatari*, Misumi Kenji, 1962), the character was played by **Katsu Shintarô**, who became most firmly associated with the role, appearing in a total of 26 films and four television series (1974, 1976, 1978, 1979) with a total of 112 episodes. Mori Issei directed the second film, *The Return of Zatoichi* (*Zoku Zatôichi monogatari*, 1962), while Tanaka Tokuzô directed the third, *New Tale of Zatoichi* (*Shin Zatôichi monogatari*, 1963), the first to be shot in color.

Daiei continued to distribute the subsequent entries, even after Katsu founded his own company, Katsu Pro, in 1967, with his first production, *Zatoichi the Outlaw* (*Zatôichi rôyaburi*), directed by **Yamamoto Satsuo**, counting as the 16th in the series. In search of novelty, later episodes drafted in **Mifune Toshirô**, playing a character not dissimilar to his one in **Kurosawa Akira**'s 1961 film, for *Zatoichi vs. Yojimbo* (*Zatôichi to Yôjinbô*, Okamoto Kihachi, 1970), and the Shaw Brothers' star Yu Wang, reprising his best-known role, for *Zatoichi Meets the One-Armed Swordsman* (*Shin Zatôichi: Yabure! Tôjin-ken*, Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1971). Following the bankruptcy of Daiei in 1971, **Toho** distributed the next three episodes: *Zatoichi at Large* (*Zatôichi goyô-tabi*, 1972), the final film of the former Daiei director Mori Issei; *Zatoichi in Desperation* (*Shin Zatôichi monogatari: Orieta tsue*, 1972), the first to be directed by Shintarô himself; and *Zatoichi's Conspiracy* (*Shin Zatôichi monogatari: Kasama no chimatsuri*, Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1973). With this, the film series came to its official end, and the character moved to television, later being revived for Katsu's final appearance in the role for the newly resurrected Daiei in *Zatoichi: Darkness Is His Ally* (*Zatôichi*, 1989), which he also directed.

The popularity of the original films inspired a lesser series produced by **Shochiku**, this time featuring a blind female sword-fighter played by Matsuyama Yôko (1937–), known as *Blind Oichi* (or *Crimson Bat*). The four films, whose first two were directed by Matsuda Sadatsugu and second two by Ichimura Hirokazu, were *Crimson Bat: The Blind Swordswoman* (*Mekura no Oichi monogatari: Makkana nagaradori*, 1969); *Trapped: The Crimson*

Bat (*Mekura no Oichi: Jigokuhada*, 1969); *Watch Out: Crimson Bat!* (*Mekura no Oichi: Midaregasa*, 1969); and *Crimson Bat: Wanted, Dead or Alive* (*Mekura no Oichi: Inochi moraimasu*, 1970). The character also inspired the 1989 American action film *Blind Fury*, directed by Phillip Noyce, in which Rutger Hauer plays a blind Vietnam veteran skilled with the sword, while in 2003, **Kitano Takeshi** became the only other actor to play Zatoichi, directing himself, with his hair dyed blonde, in the film of the same name.

Appendix A

Names of Japanese Film Companies, Studios, and Other Organizations

ACE PICTURES (ÊSU PIKUCHÂZU, エース・ピクチャーズ)
ARGO PICTURES (ARUGO PIKUCHÂZU, アルゴ・ピクチャーズ)
ASMIK ACE ENTERTAINMENT (ASUMIKKU ÊSU ENTATEINMENTO,
アスミック・エース エンタテインメント)
ATG (ART THEATRE GUILD, ÂTO SHIATÂ GIRUDO, アート・シアター・
ギルド)
BANDAI VISUAL (BANDAI BIJUARU, バンダイビジュアル)
BANTSUMA PRO (BANTSUMA PURO, 阪妻プロ)
BIDE-RIN (ビデ倫). *See* NIHON ETHICS OF VIDEO ASSOCIATION
CHINA FILM COMPANY (CHUNGHWA DYAN-YING, 中華電映, also
known as CHUKA DENEI)
CHIYOGAMI EIGASHA (千代紙映画社)
CINEMA CLUB RESEARCH GROUP (SHINE KURABU KENKYÛKAI,
シネクラブ研究会)
COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MOTION PIC-
TURE CODE OF ETHICS (EIRIN KANRI IINKAI, 映倫管理委員会; abbr.
EIRIN, 映倫)
DAIEI TELEVISION (DAIEI TEREBI, 大映テレビ)
DAI-ICHI MOTION PICTURES (DAI-ICHI EIGA, 第一映画)
DAINICHI FILM DISTRIBUTION (DAINICHI EIHA, ダイニチ映配)
DAITO FILM COMPANY (DAITO EIGA KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 大都映
画株式会社)
DIRECTORS GUILD OF JAPAN (NIHON EIGA KANTOKU KYÔKAI, 日
本映画監督協会)
EIREN (映連). *See* MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF
JAPAN
EIRIN (映倫). *See* COMMISSION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
MOTION PICTURE CODE OF ETHICS
ENK PROMOTION (E N K プロモーション)
FILM CONTROL COMMITTEE (EIGA TÔSEI IINKAI, 映画統制委員会)
FILM CORPORATION (EIGA KÔSHA, 映画公社)

FILM DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION (EIGA HAIKYÛ KÔSHA, 映画配給公社)

FILM SCHOOL OF TOKYO (EIGA BIGAKKÔ, 映画美学校)

FUJIFILM CORPORATION (FUJI FIRUMU KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 富士フイルム株式会社)

FUJI TELEVISION NETWORK, INC. (KABUSHIKIGAISHA FUJI TEREBIJON, 株式会社フジテレビジョン; abbr. FUJI TEREBI, フジテレビ)

FUKUHÔDÔ (福宝堂)

FUKUI FILM (FUKUI EIGA, 福井映画)

GREATER JAPAN FILM ASSOCIATION (DAI NIHON EIGA KYÔKAI, 大日本映画協会)

GREATER JAPAN FILM MACHINERY MANUFACTURING COMPANY (DAI-NIHON FIRUMU KIKAI SEIZÔ KAISHA, 大日本フイルム機械製造会社)

GREATER JAPAN MOTION PICTURE COMPANY (DAI NIHON EIGA SEISAKU KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 大日本映画製作株式会社)

HACHI NO SU EIGA (蜂の巣映画)

HANKYU HANSHIN TOHO GROUP (HANKYÛ HANSHIN TÔHÔ GURÛPU, 阪急阪神東宝グループ)

HERALD ACE (HERARUDO ÊSU, ヘラルド・エース)

IMAGE FORUM (IMÊJI FÔRAMU, イメージフォーラム)

IMAMURA PRODUCTIONS (IMAMURA PURODAKUSHON, 今村プロダクション)

IRIE PRO (入江プロ)

ISHIHARA PROMOTION (ISHIHARA PUROMÔSHON, 石原プロモーション)

ITAMI PRODUCTIONS (ITAMI PURODAKUSHON, 伊丹プロダクション)

JAPAN ACADEMY AWARD (NIPPON AKADEMÎ SHÔ, 日本アカデミー賞)

JAPAN ACADEMY OF MOVING IMAGES (NIHON EIGA GAKKÔ, 日本映画学校)

JAPAN ANIMATED FILMS (NIHON DÔGA EIGA, 日本動画映画)

JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF THE MOVING IMAGE. *See* UNIJAPAN

JAPAN BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION (NIHON HÔSÔ KÔSAI, 日本放送協会; abbr. NHK)

JAPAN CINEMATOGRAPH COMPANY (NIPPON KATSUDÔ SHASHIN KAISHA, 日本活動写真株式会社)

JAPAN FILM COMPANY (NIPPON EIGASHA, 日本映画社; abbr. NICHIEI, 日映)

JAPAN HOME VIDEO (JAPAN HÔMU BIDEO, ジャパンホームビデオ)

J-HORROR THEATRE (J HORÂ SHIATÂ, Jホラーシアター)

JOYPACK FILM (ジョイパックフィルム)

KADOKAWA DAIEI MOTION PICTURE COMPANY (KABUSHIKIGAISSHA KADOKAWA DAIEI EIGA, 株式会社角川大映映画)

KADOKAWA HARUKI OFFICE (KADOKAWA HARUKI JIMUSHO, 角川春樹事務所)

KADOKAWA MEDIA MANAGEMENT LTD. (KADOKAWA MEDIA MANEJIMENTO, 角川メディアマネジメント)

KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING (KABUSHIKIGAISHA KADOKAWA SHOTEN, 株式会社角川書店)

KAIJÛ SHIATÂ (海獣シアター)

KANSAI TV (KANSAI TEREBI HÔSÔ KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 関西テレビ放送株式会社, KANSAI TELECASTING CORPORATION; abbr. KTV)

KANTÔ MOVIE DISTRIBUTION (KANTÔ MÛBÎ HAIKYÛSHA, 関東ムービー配給社)

KATSU PRO (勝プロ)

KAWAI FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY (KAWAI EIGA SEISAKUSHASHA, 河合映画製作社)

KAWAKITA MEMORIAL FILM INSTITUTE (KAWAKITA KINEN EIGA BUNKA ZAIDAN, 川喜多記念映画文化財団)

KINDAI EIGA KYÔKAI (近代映画協会)

KINUGASA FILM ALLIANCE (KINUGASA EIGA RENMEI, 衣笠映画連盟)

KITTY FILM (KITI FIRUMU, キティ・フィルム)

KOKKATSU (国活). *See* KOKUSAI KATSUEI KABUSHIKIGAISHA KOKUEI (国映)

KOKUSAI KATSUEI KABUSHIKIGAISHA (国際活映, lit. INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE COMPANY; abbr. KOKKATSU, 国活)

KSS (ケイエスエス)

KUROSAWA PRODUCTIONS (KUROSAWA PURODAKUSHON, 黒澤プロダクション)

KYOKUTÔ EIGASHA (極東映画社; lit. "FAR EAST FILM COMPANY")

MADHOUSE LTD. (KABUSHIKUGAISHA MADDOHAUSU, 株式会社マッドハウス)

MAKINO EDUCATION MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS (MAKINO KYÔIKU EIGA SEISAKUSHO, 牧野教育映画製作所)

MAKINO MOTION PICTURE COMPANY (MAKINO EIGA SEISAKUSHO, マキノ映画製作所)

MAKINO PRODUCTIONS (マキノ・プロダクション)

MAKINO TALKIE (MAKINO TÔKÎ SEISAKUSHO, マキノトーキー製作所)

MATSUDA FILM PRODUCTIONS (MATSUDA EIGASHA, マツダ映画社)

MEGURO SATSUEI-JO (目黒撮影所)

MIFUNE PRO (MIFUNE PURO, 三船プロ)
 MILLION FILM (MIRION FIRUMU, ミリオンフィルム)
 MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN (NIHON EIGA SEISAKUSHA RENMEI, 日本映画製作者連盟; abbr. MPPAJ, EIREN, 映連)
 MUSHI PRO (MUSHI PURODAKUSHON, 虫プロダクション)
 NAN-Ô EIGA (南旺映画)
 NATURAL COLOR MOVING PICTURE COMPANY (TENNENSHOKU KATSUDÔ SHASHIN KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 天然色活動写真株式会社; abbr. TENKATSU, 天活)
 NEW SENSATIONALIST FILM ASSOCIATION (SHINKANKAKU-HA EIGA RENMEI, 新感覚派映画連盟)
 NICHIDÔ EIGA (日動映画)
 NICHIEI (日映). *See* JAPAN FILM COMPANY
 NIHON ETHICS OF VIDEO ASSOCIATION (NIHON BIDEO RINRI KYÔKAI, 日本ビデオ倫理協会; abbr. NEVA, BIDE-RIN, ビデ倫)
 NIHON HERALD (NIHON HERARUDO, 日本ヘラルド)
 NIHON TEREBI (日本テレビ). *See* NIPPON TELEVISION NETWORK CORPORATION
 NIHON UNIVERSITY FILM STUDY CLUB (NIHON DAIGAKU EIGA KENKYÛ-KAI, 日本大学映画研究会; abbr. NICHIDAI EIKEN, 日大映研)
 NINGYÔ EIGA SEISAKUSHO (人形映画製作所)
 NIPPON TELEVISION NETWORK CORPORATION (NIPPON TEREBI HÔSÔMÔ, 日本テレビ放送網; abbr. NTV, NIHON TEREBI)
 NHK. *See* JAPAN BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION
 NTV. *See* NIPPON TELEVISION NETWORK CORPORATION
 OFFICE KITANO (OFISU KITANO, オフィス北野)
 OGAWA PRODUCTION (OGAWA PURODAKUSHON, 小川プロダクション)
 ÔIZUMI EIGA (太泉映画)
 ÔKURA EIGA (大蔵映画)
 OSAKA SHOCHIKU GIRLS OPERA (ÔSAKA SHÔCHIKU KAGEKIDAN, 大阪松竹歌劇団; abbr. OSK)
 PHOTO CHEMICAL LABORATORY (SHASHIN KAGAKU KENKYÛJO, 写真化学研究所; abbr. P.C.L.)
 PINK PINEAPPLE (PINKU PAINAPPURU, ピンクパイナップル)
 PRODUCTION GUNRÔ (PURODAKUSHON GUNRÔ, プロダクション群狼)
 PROLETARIAN ART FEDERATION OF JAPAN (NIHON PUROTERIA GEIJUTSU RENMEI, 日本プロレタリア芸術連盟; abbr. PROGEI, プロ芸)
 SEDIC INTERNATIONAL (KABUSHIKIGAISHA SEDIKKU INTÂNASHONARU, 株式会社セディックインターナショナル)

SHIN ENGI-ZA (新演技座)

SHINKÔ KINEMA (新興キネマ)

SHINSEI EIGA (新星映画)

SHISHI PRODUCTIONS (SHISHI PURODAKUSHON, 獅子プロダクション)

SHOCHIKU HOME VIDEO (SHÔCHIKU HÔMU BIDEO, 松竹ホームビデオ; abbr. SHV)

SHOCHIKU KINEMA (SHÔCHIKU KINEMA, 松竹キネマ)

SHOCHIKU ENTERTAINMENTS (SHÔCHIKU KÔGYÔ, 松竹興行)

SHOCHIKU SHIMOKAMO STUDIO (SHÔCHIKU SHIMOKAMO SAT-SUEI-JO, 松竹下加茂撮影所)

SÔZÔSHA (創造社)

STUDIO EIGHT PRODUCTIONS (EITO PURO, エイトプロ)

STUDIO4°C (KABUSHIKIGAISHA SUTAJIO YONDO-SHII, 株式会社スタジオよんどしい)

SUNCENT CINEMA WORKS (SANSENTO SHINEMA WÂKUSU, サンセントシネマワークス)

TAIHÔ EIGA (大宝映画)

TAIKATSU (TAISHÔ KATSUDÔ EIGA, 大正活動映画)

TANTANSHA (旦々舎)

TEIKOKU KINEMA ENGEI KABUSHIKIGAISHA (帝国キネマ演芸株式会社, lit. IMPERIAL CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY; abbr. TEIKINE, 帝キネ)

TENJÔ SAJIKI (天井棧敷)

TENKATSU (天活). *See* NATURAL COLOR MOVING PICTURE COMPANY

TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS (TEZUKA PURODAKUSHON, 手塚プロダクション)

TÔA KINEMA (東亜キネマ)

TOEI ANIMATION (TÔEI DÔGA KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東映動画株式会社, until 1998)

TOEI ANIMATION (TÔEI ANIMÊSHON KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東映アニメーション株式会社, since 1998)

TOEI CENTRAL FILM (TÔEI SENTORARU FIRUMU, 東映セントラルフィルム)

TOEI TELEVISION PRODUCTION (TÔEI TEREBI PURODAKUSHON, 東映テレビ・プロダクション)

TOEI VIDEO COMPANY, LTD. (TÔEI BIDEO KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東映ビデオ株式会社)

TOHO FILM COMPANY (TÔHÔ EIGA, 東宝映画)

TOHO FILM DISTRIBUTION COMPANY (TÔHÔ EIGA HAIKYÛ, 東宝映画配給)

TOHO-TOWA COMPANY LTD (TÔHÔ-TÔWA KABUSHIKIGAISHA, 東宝東和株式会社)

TÔKATSU FILM COMPANY (TÔKATSU EIGA-SHA, 東活映画社)

TÔKATSU PRODUCTION (TÔKATSU PURODAKUSHON, 東活プロダクション)

TOKUMA SHOTEN PUBLISHING COMPANY (KABUSHIKIGAISHA TOKUMA SHOTEN, 株式会社徳間書店)

TOKYO BROADCASTING STATION (TÔKYÔ HÔSÔKYOKU, 東京放送局)

TOKYO BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. (KABUSHIKIGAISHA TÔKYÔ HÔSÔ, 株式会社東京放送, TBS)

TÔKYÔ HASSEI EIGA SEISAKUSHO (東京発声映画製作所)

TOKYO MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTION (TÔKYÔ EIGA HAIKYÛ, 東京映画配給; *see also* TOEI COMPANY)

TOKYO TAKARAZUKA THEATER (TÔKYÔ TAKARAZUKA GEKIJÔ, 東京宝塚劇場)

TOWA TRADING PARTNERSHIP (TÔWA SHÔJI KÔSHIGAISHA, 東和商事合資会社)

TÔYOKO EIGA (東横映画)

TSUBURAYA PRODUCTIONS (TSUBURAYA PURODAKUSHON, 円谷プロダクション)

TSUBURAYA SPECIAL EFFECTS PRODUCTIONS (TSUBURAYA TOKUGI PURODAKUSHON, 円谷プロダクション)

TV ASAHI CORPORATION (KABUSHIKIGAISHA TEREBI ASAHI, 株式会社テレビ朝日; abbr. TEREBI ASAHI テレビあさひ)

TV MAN UNION (TEREBI MAN YUNION, テレビマンユニオン)

UNIJAPAN (ユニジャパン; also known as JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION OF THE MOVING IMAGE, ZAIDAN HÔJIN NIHON EIZÔ KOKUSAI SHINKÔ KYÔKAI, 財団法人日本映像国際振興協会)

UNION OF MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS (EIGA SEISAKUSHA RENGÔKAI, 映画製作者連合会)

UTA PURO (UTA PURO, 右太プロ, or ICHIKAWA UTAEMON PURODAKUSHON, 市川右太衛門プロダクション)

YAMAGATA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL (YAMAGATA KOKUSAI DOKYUMENTARÎ EIGASAI, 山形国際ドキュメンタリー映画祭; abbr. YIDFF)

YAMAMOTO PRO (YAMAMOTO PURO, 山本プロ)

YOKOHAMA SCHOOL OF BROADCASTING AND FILM (YOKOHAMA HÔSÔ EIGA SENMON GAKUIN, 横浜放送映画専門学院)

YOKOTA BROTHERS COMPANY (YOKOTA KYÔDAI SHÔKAI, 横田兄弟商会)

YOKOTA COMPANY (YOKOTA SHÔKAI, 横田商会)

YÛ PRO (雄プロ)

YUBARI INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL (YÛBARI
EIGASAI, ゆうばり映画祭)

ZENSHÔ KINEMA (全勝キネマ)

Appendix B

Japanese Titles of Films Referenced in the Text

- A* (Mori Tatsuya, 1998)
A2 (Mori Tatsuya, 2001)
A Homansu (ア・ホームンス, Matsuda Yûsaku, 1986)
Abashiri Prison (*Abashiri bangaichi*, 網走番外地, Ishii Teruo, 1965–1967, 10 parts)
The Abe Clan (*Abe ichizoku*, 阿部一族, Kumagai Hisatora, 1938)
Abnormal Family: Older Brother's Bride (*Hentai kazoku: Aniki no yome-san*, 変態家族兄貴の嫁さん, Suô Masayuki, 1984)
About Love, Tokyo (*Ai ni tsuite*, Tôkyô, 愛について, 東京, Yanagimachi Mitsuo, 1992)
Achilles and the Tortoise (*Akiresu to kame*, アキレスと亀, Kitano Takeshi, 2008)
An Actor's Revenge (*Yukinojo henge*, 雪之丞変化, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1935–1936, three parts). Alt. *Yukinojo the Phantom*.
An Actor's Revenge (*Yukinojo henge*, 雪之丞変化, Ichikawa Kon, 1963). Alt. *Revenge of a Kabuki Actor*.
Actress (*Joyû*, 女優, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1947)
Actuality of the Great Oil Geyser at Kurokawa Oil Fields, Akita Prefecture (*Akita-ken Kurokawa yuden daifun'yu jikkyô*, 秋田縣黒川油田大噴油實況, unknown, 1914)
Actuality of His Excellency the Regent's Inspection of the Motion Picture Exhibition (*Sesshonomiya denka katsudô shashin tenrankai gotairan jikkyô*, 摂政宮殿下活動写真展覽会御台覧実況, unknown, 1921)
Admiral Yamamoto (*Rengô kantai shirei chôkan: Yamamoto Isoroku*, 連合艦隊指令長官 山本五十六, Maruyama Seiji, 1968)
Adrenalin Drive (*Adorenarin doraibu*, アドレナリンドライブ, Yaguchi Shinobu, 1999)
Adventures of Electric Rod Boy (*Denchû Kozô no bôken*, 電柱小僧の冒険, Tsukamoto Shinya, 1987)
Adventures of Jirocho (*Jirôchô Sangokushi: Daiichibu: Jirôchô uridasu*, 次郎長三国志 第一部 次郎長売出す, Makino Masahiro, 1952). Alt. *Jirocho's Tale of Three Provinces*.p

- The Adventures of Super Monkey* (Saiyûki, 西遊記, Sawada Kensaku, 2007).
- The Adventures of Tobisuke* (Enoken no Tobisuke bôken ryokô, エノケンのとび助冒険旅行, Nakagawa Nobuo, 1949)
- The Affair* (Jôen, 情炎, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1959). Alt. *Tormented Flame*, *Tormented Love*.
- Afraid to Die* (Karakkaze yarô, からっ風野郎, Masumura Yasuzô, 1960)
- Africa Story* (Afurika monogatari, アフリカ物語, Hani Susumu, 1981)
- After Life* (Wandâfuru raifu, ワンダフルライフ, Kore'eda Hirokazu, 1999)
- After School* (Afutâ sukûru, アフタースクール, Uchida Kenji, 2007)
- After the Rain* (Ame agaru, 雨あがる, Koizumi Takashi, 1998)
- Again* (Agein, アゲイン AGAIN, Yahagi Toshihiko, 1984)
- Ageman* (あげまん, Itami Jûzô, 1990). Alt. *Tales of a Golden Geisha*.
- Agon: Atomic Dragon* (Maboroshi no daikaijû Agon, 幻の大怪獣アゴン 1968) (TV)
- Ah! Captain Nakamura* (Aa Nakamura Taii, 噫呼中村大尉, Nakajima Hôzô, 1931)
- Aiki* (AIKI, Tengan Daisuke, 2002)
- Ain't No Tomorrows* (Oretachi ni asu wa naissu, 俺たちに明日はないッ, Tanada Yuki, 2008)
- Air Doll* (Kûki ningyô, 空気人形, Kore'eda Hirokazu, 2009)
- Ajima Song: Uehara Tomoko Voice of the Heavens* (Ajimâ no uta: Uehara Tomoko tenjô no utagoe, あじまあのウタ 上原知子ー天上の歌声, Aoyama Shinji, 2003)
- AKA Serial Killer* (Ryakushô renzoku shasatsuma, 略称・連続射殺魔, Adachi Masao, Matsuda Masao and Sasaki Mamoru, 1969/1975)
- Akiko, Portrait of a Dancer* (Akiko: Aru dansâ no shôzô, AKIKO あるダンサーの肖像, Haneda Sumiko, 1985)
- Akira* (Ôtomo Katushiro, 1988)
- Ako Castle* (Akô-jô, 赤穂城, Hagiwara Ryô, 1952)
- A.Li.Ce.* (Maejima Kenichi, 1999)
- All About Marriage* (Kekkon no subete, 結婚のすべて, Okamoto Kihachi, 1958)
- All About My Dog* (Inu no eiga, いぬのえいが, Isshin Inudô, 2004)
- All Must Live: People, Insects and Birds* (Minna ikinakereba naranai: hito, mushi, tori, みんな生きなければならない ― ヒト・ムシ・トリ, Kamei Fumio, 1984)
- All Living Things Are Friends: Lullabies of Birds, Insects and Fish* (Seibutsu mina tomodachi: tori mushi sakana no komori uta, 物みなトモダチ〜トリ・ムシ・サカナの子守歌, Kamei Fumio, 1986)
- All Under the Moon* (Tsuki wa dotchi ni dete iru, 月はどっちに出ている, Sai Yôichi, 1993)

- Alone Across the Pacific* (*Taihei-yô hitori-botchi*, 太平洋ひとりぼっち, Ichi-kawa Kon, 1963). Alt. *Alone in the Pacific, My Enemy the Sea*.
- Alone in the Night* (*Yoru ga mata kuru*, 夜がまた来る, Ishii Teruo, 1994)
- Always: Sunset on Third Street* (*Always san-chôme no yûhi*, ALWAYS 三丁目の夕日, Yamazaki Takashi, 2005)
- Amateur Club* (*Amachua kurabu*, アマチュア倶楽部, Thomas Kurihara, 1920)
- Ambition Without Humanity* (*Jingi naki yabô*, 仁義なき野望, 1996–1997, two parts) (V)
- Ambush at Blood Pass* (*Machibuse*, Inagaki Hiroshi, 待ち伏せ, 1970). Alt. *Ambush, Incident at Blood Pass*.
- And Yet We Live* (*Dokkoi ikiteiru*, どっこい生きてる, Imai Tadashi, 1951)
- Andromedia* (*Andromedia*, アンドロメディア, Miike Takashi, 1998)
- Angel Dust* (*Enjeru dasuto*, エンジェル・ダスト, Ishii Sôgo, 1994)
- Angel of Revenge: Kamikaze Taxi* (*Fukushû no tenshi*, 復讐の天使 KA-MIKAZE TAXI, Harada Masato, 1994, two parts) (TV)
- Angel's Egg* (*Tenshi no tamago*, 天使のたまご, Oshii Mamoru, 1985)
- Animal Treasure Island* (*Dôbutsu takarajima*, どうぶつ宝島, Ikeda Hiroshi, 1971)
- Another Battle* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai*, 新・仁義なき戦い, Sakamoto Junji, 2000)
- Another Battle: Conspiracy* (*Shin jingi naki tatakai: Bôtsatsu*, 新 仁義なき戦い／謀殺, Hashimoto Hajime, 2003)
- Another Lonely Hitman* (*Shin: Kanashiki hittoman*, 新・悲しきヒットマン, Mochizuki Rokurô, 1995)
- Another Way* (*Anazâ wei: D kikan jôhō*, アナザーウェイ D機関情報, Yamashita Kôzaku, 1988)
- Annyong Kimchee* (*Annyon kimuchi*, あんにょんキムチ, Matsue Tetsuaki, 1999)
- Ant Boy* (*Ari-chan*, アリちゃん, Seo Mitsuyo, 1941)
- Antonio Gaudi* (*Antoniô Gaudí*, アントニー・ガウディー, 1984)
- Antarctica* (*Nankyoku monogatari*, 南極物語, Kurahara Koreyoshi, 1983)
- Apart from You* (*Kimi to wakarete*, 君と別れて, Naruse Mikio, 1933). Alt. *After Our Separation*.
- Apartment Wife: Afternoon Affair* (*Danchi-zuma: Hirusagari no jôji*, 団地妻 昼下がりの情事, Nishimura Shôgorô, 1971)
- Apartment Wife: Afternoon Affair* (*Danchi-zuma: Hirusagari no jôji*, 団地妻 昼下がりの情事, Nakahara Shun, 2010)
- Appleseed* (*Appurushîdo*, アップルシード, Aramaki Shinji, 2004)
- Arabian Nights* (*Arabian Naito: Shindobaddo no bôken*, アラビアンナイト シンドバッドの冒険, Yabushita Taiji, 1962)

- Araki Mataemon* (荒木又右衛門, Ikeda Tomiyasu, 1925)
- Araki Mataemon: Beyond the Nationally Famous Iga* (*Araki Mataemon: Tenka no Iga goe*, 荒木又右衛門 天下の伊賀越, Katsumi Yotarô, 1934)
- Arima Cat Upheaval* (*Arima neko sôdô*, 有馬猫騒動, Saitô Hakkô, 1936)
- Armageddon: The Great Battle with Genma* (*Genma taissen*, 幻魔大戦, Rintarô, 1983)
- Armed Robber: Shimizu Sadakichi* (*Pisutoru gôtô Shimizu Sadakichi*, ビストル強盗清水定吉, Shibata Tsunekichi, 1899). Alt. *Shimizu Sadakichi* (*Inazuma gôtô*) (清水定吉[稲妻強盗])
- Army* (*Rikugun*, 陸軍, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1944)
- The Army Advances* (*Shingun*, 進軍, Ushihara Kiyohiko, 1930). Alt. *Marching On; The March*.
- Army Special Attack Squad* (*Rikugun tokubetsu kôgekitai*, 陸軍特別攻撃隊, Nichiei, 1945)
- Ashes* (*Kaijin*, 灰燼, Murata Minoru, 1929)
- Ashura* (*Ashura-jô no hitomi*, 阿修羅城の瞳, Takita Yôjirô, 2005)
- Asia Cries Out* (*Sakebu ajia*, 叫ぶ亜細亜, Uchida Tomu, 1933)
- Assassination* (*Ansatsu*, 暗殺, Shinoda Masahiro, 1964). Alt. *The Assassin. The Assassination of Ryoma* (*Ryôma no ansatsu*, 竜馬暗殺, Kuroki Kazuo, 1974)
- Assault! Jack the Ripper* (*Bôkô kirisaki Jakku*, 暴行切り裂きジャック, Hasebe Yasuharu, 1976)
- Astro Boy* (*Tetsuwan Atomu*, 鉄腕アトム, Tezuka Osamu, 1963–1966) (TV) Alt. *Mighty Atom*.
- Astro Boy: Space Hero* (*Tetsuwan Atomu: Uchû no yûsha*, 鉄腕アトム 宇宙の勇者, Yamamoto Eiichi, Rintarô (as Hayashi Shigeyuki) and Suzuki Yoshitake, 1964)
- ASYL: Park and Love Hotel* (*Pâku ando rabu hoteru*, パーク アンド ラブ ホテル, Kumasaka Izuru, 2007)
- Atami Blues* (*Atami burûsu*, 熱海ブルース, Donald Richie, 1962)
- Atragon* (*Kaitei gunkan*, 海底軍艦, Honda Ishirô, 1963)
- Attack! Hooligans of Hakata* (*Totsugeki! Hakata Gurentai*, 突撃! 博多愚連隊, Ishii Sôgo, 1978)
- Audition* (*Ôdishon*, オーディション, Miike Takashi, 2000)
- August in the Water* (*Mizu no naka no hachigatsu*, 水の中の八月, Ishii Sôgo, 1995)
- August Without Him* (*Kare no inai hachigatsu ga*, 彼のいない八月が, Kore'eda Hirokazu, 1994) (TV)
- An Autumn Afternoon* (*Sanma no aji*, 秋刀魚の味, Ozu Yasujirô, 1962)
- Autumn Interlude* (*Kaze tachinu*, 風立ちぬ, Wakasugi Mitsuo, 1976)
- Avalanche* (*Nadare*, 雪崩, Shindô Kaneto, 1952)

- Avalon* (アヴァロン, Oshii Mamoru, 2000)
- Backward Flow* (*Gyakuryû*, 逆流, Futagawa Buntarô, 1924)
- Bad Boys* (*Furyô shônen*, Hani Susumu, 不良少年, 1961)
- Bad Company* (*Mabudachi*, まぶだち, Furumaya Tomoyuki, 2001)
- The Bad Sleep Well* (*Warui yatsu hodo yoku nemuru*, 悪い奴ほどよく眠る, Kurosawa Akira, 1960)
- Bakayaro! I'm Plenty Mad* (*Bakayarô! Watashi okkote masu*, バカヤロー! 私、怒ってます, Watanabe Eriko/Nakashima Tetsuya/Hara Takahito/Tsutsumi Yukihiko, 1988)
- BAKUSHI, the Incredible Lives of Rope-Masters* (*Bakushi*, 縛師, Hiroki Ryûichi, 2007)
- The Ball at the Anjo House* (*Anjô-ke no butôkai*, 安城家の舞踏会, Yoshimura Kôzaburô, 1947)
- Ballad of a Cart* (*Niguruma no uta*, 荷車の歌, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1959)
- The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*, 檜山節考, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1958)
- The Ballad of Narayama* (*Narayama bushiko*, 檜山節考, Imamura Shôhei, 1983)
- Ballad of the Silk Tree* (*Nemu no ki no uta*, Miyagi Mariko, ねむの木の詩, 1974). Alt. *The Silk Tree Ballad*.
- Bambi Bone* (*BAMBI♥BONE*, Shibutani Noriko, 2004)
- Band of Assassins* (*Shinobi no mono*, 忍びの者, Yamamoto Satsuo and various, 1962–1966, eight parts)
- Band of Assassins* (*Shinsengumi*, 新選組, Sawashima Tadashi, 1969)
- Bangoro Shibukawa* (*Shibukawa Bangorô*, 渋川伴五郎, Tsukiyama Kôkichi, 1922)
- Bantsuma: The Life of Tsumasaburo Bando* (*Bantsuma: Bandô Tsumasaburô no shôgai*, 阪妻—阪東妻三郎の生涯, Matsuda Shunsui, 1980)
- The Bare Essence of Life* (*Urutora mirakuru rabu sutôri*, ウルトラミラクルラブストーリー, Yokohama Satoko, 2009). Alt. *Ultra Miracle Love Story*.
- Barefoot Gen* (*Hadashi no gen*, はだしのゲン, Yamada Tengu, 1976)
- Barefoot Gen* (*Hadashi no gen*, はだしのゲン, Masaki Mori, 1983)
- Barefoot Gen: Explosion of Tears* (*Hadashi no Gen: Namida no bakuhatsu*, はだしのゲン 涙の爆発, Yamada Tengu, 1977)
- Barefoot Gen 2* (*Hadashi no gen 2*, はだしのゲン 2, Hirata Toshio, 1986)
- Barefoot Gen 3: Battle of Hiroshima* (*Hadashi no Gen Part 3: Hiroshima no tataikai*, はだしのゲン PART 3 ヒロシマのたたかい, Yamada Tengu, 1980)
- Barren Illusion* (*Ôinaru genei*, 大いなる幻影, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 1999)
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- Bastard on the Border: The Illusion of a Mixed Race Republic* (*Maboroshi no konminzoku kyôwakoku*, 幻の混民族共和国, Nunokawa Tetsurô, 1976)
- The Bath Harem* (*Ukiyo-buro*, 浮世風呂, Kimura Keigo, 1958)

- Battery* (*Batterî*, バッテリー, Takita Yôjirô, 2007)
- Battle Anthem* (*Nihonkai daikaisen: Umi yukaba*, 日本海大海戦 海ゆかば, Masuda Toshio, 1983). Alt. *The Battle of the Sea of Japan: To Go to Sea. The Battle at Honnoji Temple* (*Honnôji gassen*, 本能寺合戦, Makino Shôzô, 1908)
- Battle Cry* (*Tokkan*, 呐喊, Okamoto Kihachi, 1975)
- Battle in Outer Space* (*Uchû Daisensô*, 宇宙大戦争, Honda Ishirô, 1959). Alt. *Great Space Battle*.
- The Battle of Kawanakajima* (*Kawanakajima kassen*, 川中島合戦, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1941)
- The Battle of Okinawa* (*Gekidô no Shôwa-shi: Okinawa kessen*, 激動の昭和史 沖縄決戦, Okamoto Kihachi, 1971)
- Battle of the Sea of Japan* (*Nihonkai daikaisen*, 日本海大海戦, Maruyama Seiji, 1969)
- Battle Royale* (*Batoru rowaiaru*, バトル・ロワイアル, Fukasaku Kinji, 2000)
- Battle Royale II: Requiem* (*Batoru rowaiaru II: Chinkonka*, バトル・ロワイアル II [鎮魂歌], Fukasaku Kinji and Fukasaku Kenta, 2003)
- Battleship Yamato* (*Senkan Yamato*, 戦艦大和, Abe Yutaka, 1953)
- Battles Without Honor and Humanity* (*Jingi naki tatakai*, 仁義なき戦い, Fukasaku Kinji, 1973). Alt. *The Yakuza Papers*.
- Battles Without Honor and Humanity: Fight to the Death in Hiroshima* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Hiroshima shitôhen*, 仁義なき戦い 広島死闘篇, Fukasaku Kinji, 1973)
- Battles Without Honor and Humanity: Final Episode* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Kanketsu-hen*, 仁義なき戦い 完結篇, Fukasaku Kinji, 1974)
- Battles Without Honor and Humanity: Police Tactics* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Chôjô sakusen*, 仁義なき戦い 頂上作戦, Fukasaku Kinji, 1974)
- Battles Without Honor and Humanity: Proxy War* (*Jingi naki tatakai: Dairi sensô*, 仁義なき戦い 代理戦争, Fukasaku Kinji, 1973)
- Bayside Shakedown* (*Odoru daisôsasen the Movie*, 踊る大捜査線 THE MOVIE, 1998). Alt. *Bayside Shakedown the Movie*
- Bayside Shakedown 2* (*Odoru daisôsasen The Movie 2: Reinbô bûriji o fûsaseyo!*, 踊る大捜査線 THE MOVIE 2 レインボーブリッジを封鎖せよ!, Motohiro Katsuyuki, 2003). Alt. *Bayside Shakedown the Movie 2: Save the Rainbow Bridge!*
- The Beast Must Die* (*Yajû shisubeshi*, 野獣死すべし, Murakawa Tôru, 1980)
- Beautiful Mystery* (*Kyokon densetsu: Utsukushiki nazo*, 巨根伝説 美しき謎, Nakamura Genji, 1983)
- Beautiful Sunday* (BEAUTIFUL SANDAY, Nakashima Tetsuya, 1998)
- Beauty and Sadness* (*Utsukushisa to kanashimi to*, 美しさと哀しみと, Shinoda Masahiro, 1965)

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Beyond the Clouds (*Kumo nagaruru hate ni*, 雲ながるる果てに, Ieki Miyoji, 1953)

Beyond the Mountain Pass (*Tôge no kanata*, 峠の彼方, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1924)

The Big Boss (*Kaoyaku*, 顔役, Katsu Shintarô, 1971)

The Big Boss's Head (*Sôchô no kubi*, 総長の首, Sadao Nakajima, 1979)

Big Strong Man of Music (*Dai kongô no fu*, 大金剛の譜, Mizugae Ryûichi, 1938)

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Birth of the Wizard (*Eko eko Azarak II*, エコエコアザラク II EKO EKO AZARAK II, Satô Shimako, 1996)

Black Cat (*Kuro-nyago*, 黒ニャゴ, Ôfuji Noburô, 1929)

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- Blackmail Is My Life* (*Kyôkatsu koso waga jinsei*, 恐喝こそわが人生, Fukasaku Kinji, 1968). Alt. *Call Me Blackmail!*
- Black Rain* (*Kuroi ame*, 黒い雨, Imamura Shôhei, 1989)
- Black Rose Mansion* (*Kuro bara no yakata*, 黒薔薇の館, Fukasaku Kinji, 1969)
- Black Snow* (*Kuroi Yuki*, 黒い雪, Takechi Tetsuji, 1965)
- Black Sun* (*Kuroi taiyô*, 黒い太陽, Miki Shigeru, 1936)
- The Black Tide* (*Kuroi ushio*, 黒い潮, Yamamura Sô, 1954)
- The Blessing Bell* (*Kôfuku no kane*, 幸福の鐘, Sabu, 2002),
- Blind Beast* (*Môjû*, 盲獣, Masumura Yasuzô, 1969). Alt. *The Warehouse*.
- Blind Woman's Curse* (*Kaidan nobori-ryû*, 怪談昇り竜, Ishii Teruo, 1970). Alt. *Black Cat's Revenge, The Tattooed Swordsman*.
- Blood and Bones* (*Chi to hone*, 血と骨, Sai Yôichi, 2004)
- Blood and Rules* (*Chi to okite*, 血と掟, Yuasa Yoshio, 1965)
- Blood and Spirit* (*Chi to rei*, 血と霊, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1923)
- Blood Sword of the 99th Virgin* (*Kyûjûkyû honme no kimusume*, 九十九本目の生娘, Magadani Morihei, 1959)
- Bloody Spear at Mount Fuji* (*Chiyari Fuji*, 血槍富士, Uchida Tomu, 1955)
- The Blossoming Port* (*Hanasaku minato*, 花咲く港, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1943)
- Blue Chong* (*Ao Chong*, 青 CHONG, Lee Sang-il, 2000)
- Blue Eyes, Black Eyes* (*Sôbô kokubô*, 蒼眸黒眸, Suzuki Shigeyoshi, 1933)
- Blue Mountains* (*Aoi sanmyaku*, 青い山脈, Imai Tadashi, 1949, two parts)
- The Blue Pearl* (*Aoi shinjû*, 青い真珠, Honda Ishirô, 1951)
- Body and Soul* (*Kokoro to nikutai no tabi*, 心と肉体の旅, Masuda Toshio, 1958)
- Bodyguard Kiba* (*Bodigâdo kiba*, ボディガード牙, Miike Takashi, 1993–1995, three parts) (V)
- Boiling Point* (3–4x *jûgatsu*, 3 – 4 x 10月, Kitano Takeshi, 1990)
- Bomber Pilots* (*Bakugeki hikôtai*, 爆撃飛行隊, Saegusa Genjirô, 1934)
- Book of Love and Marriage* (*Renai to kekkon no sho*, 恋愛と結婚の書, Abe Yutaka, 1936, two parts)
- Book of the Dead* (*Shisha no sho*, 死者の書, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 2005)
- Border Line* (BORDER LINE, Lee Sang-il, 2002)
- The Boss* (*Kaoyaku*, 顔役, Ishii Teruo, 1965)
- The Boss's Son Goes to College* (*Daigaku no wakadanna*, 大学の若旦那, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1933)
- Bound for the Fields, the Mountains and the Seacoast* (*No-yuki yama-yuki umibe-yuki*, 野ゆき山ゆき海べゆき, Ôbayashi Nobuhiko, 1986)
- The Boxer* (*Bokusâ*, ボクサー, Terayama Shûji, 1977)
- Boy* (*Shônen*, 少年, Ôshima Nagisa, 1969)

- A Boy's Summer in 1945* (*Utsukushii natsu kirishima*, 美しい夏キリシマ, Kuroki Kazuo, 2002)
- The Boy and the Little Raccoon* (*Shônen to kotanuki*, 少年とこたぬき, Mochinaga Tadahito, 1992)
- The Boy from Hell* (*Jigoku kozô*, 地獄小僧, Asato Mari, 2004)
- The Boys Detective Gang* (*Shônen tantei-dan*, 少年探偵団, Kobayashi Tsuneo and various, 1956–1959, nine parts)
- Boys Over Flowers: Final* (*Hana yori dango: Fainaru*, 花より男子 ファイナル, Ishii Yasuharu, 2008)
- Boy with Cat* (*Neko to shônen*, 猫と少年, Donald Richie, 1967)
- Branded to Kill* (*Koroshi no rakuin*, 殺しの烙印, Suzuki Seijun, 1967)
- Brave 47 Gangsters* (*Gangyu Chûshingura*, ギャング忠臣蔵, Ozawa Shige-hiro, 1963). Alt. *Chushingura Outlaws, the Story of 47 Loyal Gangsters*.
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- Breaking Branches Is Forbidden* (*Hana-ori*, 花折り, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1968)
- Briar Rose or the Sleeping Beauty* (*Ibarahime mata manemuri-hime*, いばら姫またはねむり姫, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1990)
- Bride of the Andes* (*Andesu no hanayome*, アンデスの花嫁, Hani Susumu, 1966)
- The Bride of Hades* (*Botan dôrô*, 牡丹燈籠, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1968) Alt. *Tale of Peonies and Lanterns*.
- The Bride of Otori Castle* (*Ôtori-jô no hanayome*, 鳳城の花嫁, Matsuda Sadatsugu, 1957). Alt. *The Lord Takes a Bride*.
- Bright Future* (*Akarui mirai*, アカレイミライ, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2003)
- Broken Dishes at the Haunted Mansion* (*Banchô sarayashiki*, 幡長皿屋敷, Makino Shôzô, 1914)
- Broken Down Film* (*Onboroshi firumu*, おんぼろフィルム, Tezuka Osamu, 1985)
- A Broken Drum* (*Yabure-daiko*, 破れ太鼓, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1949)
- Brother* (BROTHER, Kitano Takeshi, 2000)
- Brothers and Sisters of the Toda Family* (*Toda-ke no kyôdai*, 戸田家の兄妹, Ozu Yasujirô, 1941)
- Buddha* (*Shaka*, 釈迦, Misumi Kenji, 1961)
- Bug Master* (*Mushi-shi*, 蟲師, Ôtomo Katushiro, 2006)
- Bullet Ballet* (*Baretto barê*, バレット・バレエ BULLET BALLET, Tsukamoto Shinya, 1998)
- Bullet Train* (*Shinkansen daibakuha*, 新幹線大爆破, Satô Junya, 1975)
- Buraikan* (無頼漢, Shinoda Masahiro, 1970). Alt. *The Scandalous Adventures of Buraikan, Outlaws*.
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- Burst City* (*Bakuretsu Toshi*, 爆裂都市 BURST CITY, Ishii Sôgo, 1982)
Café Lumière (*Kôhi jikô*, 珈琲時光, Hou Hsiao-hsien, 2003)
The Cage (*Ori*, 檻, Terayama Shûji, 1962)
Camp Song (*Roei no uta*, 露営の歌, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1938)
Campaign (*Senkyô*, 選挙, Soda Kazuhiro, 2007). Alt. *The Kawasaki Candidate*.
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The Captain's Daughter (*Taii no musume*, 大尉の娘, Ochiai Namio, 1929)
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Carmen from Kawauchi (*Kawauchi Karumen*, 河内カルメン, Suzuki Seijun, 1966)
Carmen's Pure Love (*Karumen junjôsu*, カルメン純情す, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1952)
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The Cat Leaves Home (*Inuneko*, 犬猫, Iguchi Nami, 2001, 8mm)
The Cat Leaves Home (*Inuneko*, 犬猫, Iguchi Nami, 2004)
The Cat of Okazaki (*Okazaki no neko*, 岡崎の猫, Makino Shôzô, 1914)
The Cat Returns (*Neko no ongaeshi*, 猫の恩返し, Morita Hiroyuki, 2001)
Catastrophe 1999: The Prophecies of Nostradamus (*Nosutoradamusu no dai-yogen*, ノストラダムスの大予言 CATASTROPHE – 1999, Masuda Toshio, 1974)
The Catch (*Shiiku*, 飼育, Ôshima Nagisa, 1961)
Caterpillar (*Kyatapirâ*, キャタピラー, Wakamatsu Kôji, 2010)
The Ceiling at Utsunomiya (*Kaii Utsonomiya tsuritenjô*, 怪異宇都宮釣天井, Nakagawa Nobuo, 1956)
The Ceremony (*Gishiki*, 儀式, Ôshima Nagisa, 1971)
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Cherry Blossoms of Japan (*Yamato zakura*, 日本桜, Iwafuji Shisetsu, 1909)

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- The Life of Chikuzan* (*Chikuzan hitori tabi*, 竹山ひとり旅, Shindô Kaneto, 1977)
- Children in the Classroom* (*Kyôshitsu no kodomotachi*, 教室の子供たち, Hani Susumu, 1954)
- Children in the Wind* (*Kaze no naka no kodomo*, 風の中の子供, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1937)
- Children of the Beehive* (*Hachi no su no kodomotachi*, 蜂の巣の子供たち, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1948)
- Children of Hiroshima* (*Genbaku no ko*, 原爆の子, Shindô Kaneto, 1952)
- Children of the Sun* (*Taiyô no ko*, 太陽の子, Abe Yutaka, 1938)
- Children of the Wind* (*Kaze no naka no kodomo*, 風の中の子供, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1937)
- Children Who Draw Pictures* (*E o kaku kodomotachi*, 絵を描く子供たち, Hani Susumu, 1956)
- China Nights* (*Shina no yoru*, 支那の夜, Fushimizu Osamu, 1940, two parts). Alt. *Suchow Nocturne* (*Soshû yakyoku*, 蘇州夜曲)
- Chinkoroheibei and the Treasure Box* (*Chinkoroheibei tama tebako*, ちんころ平々玉手箱, Ôfuji Noburô, 1936)
- Chinpira* (チンピラ, Kawashima Tôru, 1984)
- Chinpira* (チンピラ, Aoyama Shinji, 1996). Alt. *Two Punks*.
- Chivalry Under the New Moon* (*Kyûkotsu mikazuki*, 俠骨三日月, Ikeda Tomiyasu, 1926)
- Chocolate and Soldiers* (*Chokorêto to heitai*, チョコレートと兵隊, Satô Takeshi, 1938)
- Choice of Hercules* (*Totsunyûseyo! Asama sansô jiken*, 突入せよ!浅間山荘事件, Harada Masato, 2001)
- Chronic Rutting Adultery Wife* (*Mansei hatsujô furin-zuma*, Yoshiyuki Yumi, まん性発情不倫妻, 1996)
- Chuji in His Heyday* (*Chûji uridasu*, 忠次売出す, Itami Mansaku, 1935)
- Chuji Kunisada* (*Kunisada Chûji*, 国定忠治, Makino Masahiro, 1937)
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- Chuji's Travel Diary: First Meeting on the Road* (*Chûji tabi nikki: Aizome dôchû*, 忠治旅日記 逢初道中, Sasaki Yasushi, 1952)
- Chushingura* (*Chûshingura*, 忠臣蔵, Ikeda Tomiyasu, 1938)
- Chûshingura Gotanme* (忠臣蔵五段目, Konishi Tôru, 1907)
- Circus Boys* (*Nijûseiki shônen dokuhon*, 二十世紀少年読本, Hayashi Kaizô, 1989)

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Cleopatra (*Kureopatora*, クレオパトラ, Yamamoto Eiichi and Tezuka Osamu, 1970). Alt. *Cleopatra: Queen of Sex*.

The Closed Vagina (*Sain*, 鎖陰, Adachi Masao/Nichidai Eiken, 1963)

Cloudburst (*Doshaburi*, 土砂降り, Nakamura Noboru, 1957)

The Cock Crows Twice (*Niwatori wa futatabi naku*, 鶏はふたゝび鳴く, Gosho Heinosuke, 1954)

The Cockroach (*Za gokuburi*, ザ・ゴキブリ, Kotani Shûsei, 1973)

Cockroach Detective (*Gokuburi keiji*, コキブリ刑事, Kotani Shûsei, 1973)

A Colt Is My Passport (*Koruto wa ore no pasupoto*, 拳銃は俺のパスポート, Nomura Takashi, 1967)

Company Funeral (*Shasô*, 社葬, Masuda Toshio, 1989)

The Concretization of These Things Flying Around Me (*Watashi ga iki-iki to kakawatte ikô to suru jibutsu no gutaika*, 私が生き生きと関わっていかうとする事物の具体化, Kawase Naomi, 1988)

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Cops vs. Thugs (*Kenkei tai soshiki bôryoku*, 県警対組織暴力, Fukasaku Kinji, 1975)

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Crazy Family (*Gyakufunsha kazoku*, 逆噴射家族, Ishii Sôgo, 1984)

Crazy Thunder Road (*Kuruizaki sandâ rôdo*, 狂い咲きサンダーロード, Ishii Sôgo, 1980)

Cream Lemon (*Kurîmu remon*, くりむレモン, var., 1984-, series) (V)

Crest of Betrayal (*Chûshingura gaiden: Yotsuya kaidan*, 忠臣蔵外伝 四谷怪談, Fukasaku Kinji, 1994)

The Cricket Girl (*Koborogi-musume*, こほろぎ嬢, Hamano Sachi, 2006)

Crime Hunter: Bullet of Fury (*Kuraimu hantâ: Ikari no jûdan*, クライムハンター 怒りの銃弾, Okawa Shundô, 1989) (V)

Crimson Bat: The Blind Swordswoman (*Mekura no Oichi monogatari: Makkana nagaradori*, めくらのお市物語 真つ赤な流れ鳥, Matsuda Satsugu, 1969). Alt. *Blind Oichi Story: Red Bird of Flight*.

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- The Grass Cutter Girl* (*Shishun no izumi*, 思春の泉, Nakagawa Nobuo, 1953)
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- The Green Slime* (*Ganma 3-gô: Uchû daikusen*, ガンマ3号 宇宙大作戦, Fukasaku Kinji, 1968). Alt. *Battle Beyond the Stars*.
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- Honeymoon Express* (*Mitsugetsu kaisha/Mi yue kuai che*, 蜜月快車, Ueno Shinji, 1938). Alt. *The Honeymoon Train*.
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- Moonlight Mask* (*Gekkô Kamen*, 月光仮面, Kobayashi Tsuneo and various, 1958–1959, six parts)
- Morning Fog* (*Asagiri*, 朝霧, Yoshida Kenji, 1971)
- Morning for the Osone Family* (*Osone-ke no asa*, 大曾根家の朝, Kinoshita Keisuke, 1946)
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- The Most Terrible Time in My Life* (*Waga jinsei saiaku no toki*, 我が人生最悪の時, Hayashi Kaizô, 1994)
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- Mother* (*Haha*, 母, Nomura Hôtei, 1929)

- Mother* (*Okaasan*, おかあさん, Naruse Mikio, 1952)
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- The Mother Tree* (*Chibusa no enoki*, 怪談乳房榎, Kadono Gorô, 1958). Alt. *Ghost of Chibusa Enoki*.
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- Mother's Song* (*Haha no kyoku*, 母の曲, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1937, two parts)
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- The Mourning Forest* (*Mogari no mori*, 殯の森, Kawase Naomi, 2007)
- Mr. and Mrs. Sword Play* (*Chanbara fûfu*, チャンバラ夫婦, Naruse Mikio, 1930)
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- Mt. Head* (*Atama-yama*, 頭山, Yamamura Kôji, 2002)
- Muddy River* (*Doro no kawa*, 泥の河, Oguri Kôhei, 1981)
- Mud and Soldiers* (*Tsuchi to heitai*, 土と兵隊, Tasaka Tomotaka, 1939)
- Mugen Sasurai* (夢幻彷徨 MUGEN-SASURAI, Kimura Takeo, 2004)
- The Munekata Sisters* (*Munekata shimai*, 宗方姉妹, Ozu Yasujirô, 1950)
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- Musical Comedy: Intoxicated Life* (*Ongaku kigeki: Horoyoi jinsei*, 音楽喜劇 ぼろよひ人生, Kimura Sotoji, 1933)
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- My Face Red in the Sunset* (*Yûhi ni akai ore no kao*, 夕陽に赤い俺の顔, Shinoda Masahiro, 1961)
- My Heart Is Like the Moon* (*Kokoro tsuki no gotoku*, こころ月の如く, Inagaki Hiroshi, 1947)
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My Nightingale (*Watashi no uguisu*, 私の鶯, Shimazu Yasujirô, 1938)

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My Second Brother (*Nianchan*, にあんちゃん, Imamura Shôhei, 1959)

The Mysterians (*Chikyû bôeigun*, 地球防衛軍, Honda Ishirô, 1957). Alt. *Earth Defense Force, Phantom 7000*.

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Naked Island (*Hadaka no shima*, 裸の島, Shindô Kaneto, 1960)

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Nanayo (*Nanayomachi*, 七夜待, Kawase Naomi, 2009). Alt. *Seven Nights*.

Nanking (*Nankin*, 南京, Akimoto Ken, 1938)

Naomi (ナオミ, Takabayashi Yôichi, 1980)

Natsuko's Adventure (*Natsuko no bôken*, 夏子の冒険, Nakamura Noboru, 1953)

Nausicaä: Valley of the Wind (*Kaze no tani no Naushika*, 風の谷のナウシカ, Miyazaki Hayao, 1984). Alt. *Warriors of the Wind*.

Naval Bomber Squadron (*Kaigun bakugeki-tai*, 海軍爆撃隊, Kimura Sotoji, 1940)

The Naval Brigade at Shanghai (*Shanghai rikusentai*, 上海陸戦隊, Kumagai Hisatora, 1939). Alt. *Shanghai Landing Squad*.

Navy (*Kaigun*, 海軍, Tasaka Tomaka, 1943)

The Neighbor's Wife and Mine (*Madamu to nyôbô*, マダムと女房, Goshô Heinosuke, 1931)

Neo Chinpira: Zoom Goes the Bullet (*Neo Chinpira: Teppôdama byu*, ネオチンピラ 鉄砲玉ぴゅ〜, Takahashi Banmei, 1990–1991, two parts) (V)

Neon Genesis Evangelion (*Shin Seiki Evangerion*, 新世紀エヴァンゲリオン, Anno Hideaki, 1995–1996) (TV)

New Abashiri Prison (*Shin Abashiri bangaichi*, Makino Masahiro/Saeki Kiyoshi/Furuhata Yasuo, 1968–1972, eight parts)

New Age of Fools (Shin baka jidai, 新馬鹿時代, Yamamoto Kajirô, 1947, two parts). Alt. *The Foolish Times.*

New Battles Without Honor and Humanity (Shin jingi naki tataikai, 新仁義なき戦い, Fukasaku Kinji, 1974)

New Battles Without Honor and Humanity: It's Time to Kill the Boss (Shin jingi naki tataikai: Kumichô no kubi, 新仁義なき戦い 組長の首, Fukasaku Kinji, 1975). Alt. *The Boss's Head.*

New Battles Without Honor and Humanity: The Boss's Final Day (Shin jingi naki tataikai: Kumichô saigo no hi, 新仁義なき戦い 組長最後の日, Fukasaku Kinji, 1976). Alt. *Boss's Last Days.*

The New Cuckoo (Shin hototogisu, 新不如帰, Iwafuji Shisetsu, 1909)

The New Earth (Atarashiki tushi, 新しき土, Itami Mansaku, 1937)

New Ghost Story Heretical Lust: Oiwa's Vengeful Ghost (Shin kaidan shiki-yoku gedô: Oiwa no onryô yotsuya kaidan, 新怪談色欲外道 お岩の怨霊 四谷怪談, Ogawa Kinya, 1976)

The New God (Atarashii kami-sama, 新しい神様, Tsuchiya Yutaka, 1999)

New Great Detective Zigomar (Shin Jigoma daitantei, 新ジゴマ大探偵, unknown, 1912)

New Hoodlum Soldier: Firing Line (Shin heitai yakuza: kazen, 新兵隊やくざ 火線, Masumura Yasuzô, 1972)

A New Love in Tokyo (Ai no shin-sekai, 愛の新世界, Takahashi Banmei, 1994). Alt. *Tokyo Decadence 2.*

The New Peach Boy (Shin Momotarô, 新桃太郎, Iwafuji Shisetsu, 1909)

New Tale of Zatoichi (Shin Zatôichi monogatari, 新・座頭市物語, Tanaka Tokuzô, 1963). Alt. *Zatoichi: The Blind Swordsman's Return; Zatoichi Enters Again; Zatoichi 3.*

Nichiren, Who Protects Japan (Kuni o mamoru Nichiren, Sone Chiharu, 国を護る日蓮, 1935)

Night and Fog in Japan (Nihon no yoru to kiri, 日本の夜と霧, Ôshima Nagisa, 1960)

A Night in the Nude (Nûdo no yoru, ヌードの夜, Ishii Teruo, 1993)

Night of the Doll Festival (Hina matsuri no yoru, 雛祭の夜, Thomas Kurihara, 1921)

A Night to Remember (Sonoyoru wa wasurenai, その夜は忘れない, Yoshimura Kôzaburô, 1962). Alt. *Hiroshima Heartache; Hiroshima, My Sadness.*

Nightly Dreams (Yogoto no yume, 夜ごとの夢, Naruse Mikio, 1933). Alt. *Every Night Dreams.*

Nightmare Detective (Akuma tantei, 悪夢探偵, Tsukamoto Shinya, 2006)

Nightmare Detective 2 (Akuma tantei 2, 悪夢探偵2, Tsukamoto Shinya, 2008)

Nihonbashi (日本橋, Ichikawa Kon, 1956)

- A Nineteen-Year-Old's Map* (*Jūjūsai no chizu*, 十九歳の地図, Yanagimachi Mitsuo, 1979)
- Ninja Chushingura* (*Ninpō Chūshingura*, 忍法忠臣蔵, Hasegawa Yasuto, 1965)
- Nishi Ginza Station* (*Nishi Ginza eki-mae*, 西銀座駅前, Imamura Shōhei, 1958)
- NN-891102* (NN—八九一一零二 *NN-891102*, Shibata Gō, 1999)
- No Life King* (*Nō raifu kingu*, ノーライフキング, Ichikawa Jun, 1989)
- No More Comics* (*Komikku zasshi nanka iranai!*, コミック雑誌なんかいいらない!, Takita Yōjirō, 1986). Alt. *Comic Magazine*.
- No Regrets for Our Youth* (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, わが青春に悔なし, Kurosawa Akira, 1946). Alt. *No Regrets for My Youth*.
- Nobody Knows* (*Dare mo shiranai*, 誰も知らない, Kore'eda Hirokazu, 2004)
- The Noh Mask Murders* (*Tenkawa densetsu satsujin jiken*, 天河伝説殺人事件, Ichikawa Kon, 1991)
- Noisy Requiem* (*Tsuitō no zawameki*, 追悼のざわめき, Matsui Yoshihiko, 1988)
- Nomugi Pass* (*Ā, Nomugi tōge*, あゝ野麦峠, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1979)
- Nomugi Pass: Fresh Pastures* (*Nomugi tōge: Shinryoku-hen*, あゝ野麦峠新緑篇, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1982)
- Norakuro's Tiger Extermination* (*Norakuro tora taiji*, のらくろ虎退治, Seo Mitsuyo, 1938)
- The Notorious Concubines* (*Kinpeibai*, 金瓶梅, Wakamatsu Kōji, 1968). Alt. *The Concubines*.
- The Nude Model Murder Case* (*Nūdo moderu satsujin jiken*, ヌードモデル殺人事件, Akasaka Nagayoshi, 1957)
- An Obsession* (*Tsumetai chi*, 冷たい血 AN OBSESSION, Aoyama Shinji, 1997)
- An Ocean to Cross* (*Tenpyō no iraka*, 天平の躰, 1980)
- Ocean Waves* (*Umi ga kikoeru*, 海がきこえる, Mochizuki Tomomi, 1993) (TV)
- Ochiyo's Umbrella* (*Ochiyo-gasa*, お千代傘, Ozaki Jun, 1935)
- Odd Obsession* (*Kagi*, 鍵, Ichikawa Kon, 1959)
- Ode to Mount Hayachine* (*Hayachine no fu*, 早池峰の賦, Haneda Sumiko, 1982)
- Office Lady Chushingura* (*OL Chūshingura*, OL 忠臣蔵 Chu~shin Gura, Suzuki Hikaru, 1997)
- Office Lady Diary: Scent of a She-Cat* (*OL nikki: Mesuneko no nioi*, OL 日記 牝猫の匂い, Fujii Katsuhiko, 1972)
- Ogonka* (*Ōgonka: Hisureba hana, shisureba chô*, 黄金花 秘すれば花、死すれば蝶, 2009)
- Oiran* (華魁, Takechi Tetsuji, 1983)

Okatsu the Avenger (Yôen dokufuden: Hitokiri Okatsu, 妖艶毒婦伝 人斬りお勝, Nakagawa Nobuo, 1969)

Okatsu's Criminal Journey (Yôen dokufuden: Okatsu kyôjôtabi, 妖艶毒婦伝 お勝兇状旅, Nakagawa Nobuo, 1969)

Okinawa Hanging Phantom Ghost Story (Okinawa kaidan sakasa-zuri yûrei, 沖縄怪談逆吊り幽霊, Satoru Kobayashi, 1962). Alt. *Upset Hanging Ghost*. *Okinawa Yakuza War* (Okinawa yakuza sensô, 沖縄やくざ戦争, Nakajima Sadao, 1976)

Okoto and Sasuke (Shunkin shô: Okoto to Sasuke, 春琴抄 お琴と佐助, Shimazu Yasujirô, 1935). Alt. *A Portrait of Shunkin: Okoto and Sasuke*.

Okoto and Sasuke (Okoto to Sasuke, お琴と佐助, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1961). *The Koto Player & Her Disciple*.

The Old Capital (Koto, 古都, Nakamura Noboru, 1963)

The Old Capital (Koto, 古都, Ichikawa Kon, 1980)

An Older Brother and His Younger Sister (Ane to sono imôto, 兄とその妹, Shimazu Yasujirô, 1939)

Older Brother, Younger Sister (Ani imôto, あにいもうと, Naruse Mikio, 1954)

On the Eve of War (Kaisen no zenya, 開戦の前夜, Yoshimura Kôzaburô, 1943)

One Missed Call (Chakushin ari, 着信アリ, Miike Takashi, 2004). Alt. *You've Got a Call*.

One Missed Call 2 (Chakushin ari 2, 着信アリ2, Tsukamoto Renpei, 2005)

One Missed Call Final (Chakushin ari Final, 着信アリFinal, Asô Manabu, 2006)

One Thousand and One Nights of Toho (Tôhō sen-ichi ya, 東宝千一夜, Ichikawa Kon, 1947)

One's Own Sin (Ono ga tsumi, 己が罪, unknown 1908–1912)

One-Way Ticket to Love (Koi no katamichi kippu, 恋の片道切符, Shinoda Masahiro, 1960)

Onibaba (鬼婆, Shindô Kaneto, 1964)

Onibi: The Fire Within (Onibi, 鬼火, Mochizuki Rokurô, 1997)

Onimaru (Arashigaoka, 嵐が丘, Yoshida Kijû, 1988)

The Only Son (Hitori musuko, 一人息子, Ozu Yasujirô, 1936)

Only Yesterday (Omoide poro-poro, おもひでぼろぼろ, Takahata Isao, 1991)

Open Your Mind (Mezame no hakobune, めざめの方舟, Oshii Mamoru, 2005)

Operation Crazy (Kurêjî daisakusen, クレージー大作戦, Furusawa Kengo, 1966)

The Opium War (Ahen sensô, 阿片戦争, Masahiro Makino, 1943)

Organ (Orugan, オルガン, Fujiwara Kei, 1996)

Organized Violence (Soshiki bôryoku: Kyôdai sakazuki, 組織暴力 兄弟盃, Satô Junya, 1969)

- Oriental Song of Victory* (*Tôyô no gaika*, 東洋の凱歌, Nippon Eigasha, 1942)
- Oriume* (折り梅, Matsui Hisako, 2003)
- Ornamental Hair Pin* (*Kanzashi*, 簪, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1941)
- Orochi* (雄呂血, Futagawa Buntarô, 1925). Alt. *Serpent*.
- Osaka Elegy* (*Naniwa ereji*, 浪華悲歌, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1936)
- An Osaka Story* (*Ôsaka monogatari*, 大阪物語, Yoshimura Kozaburô, 1957)
- Our Generation* (*Bokura no jidai*, ぼくらの時代, Hiroki Ryûichi, 1983)
- Our Moment* (*Bokura no shunkan*, ぼくらの瞬間, Hiroki Ryûichi, 1986)
- Our Season* (*Bokura no kisetsu*, ぼくらの季節, Hiroki Ryûichi, 1983)
- The Outcast* (*Hakai*, 破戒, Ichikawa Kon, 1962). Alt. *The Broken Commandment*.
- The Outsiders* (*Mori to mizuumi no matsuri*, 森と湖のまつり, Uchida Tomu, 1958)
- The Owl* (*Fukurô*, ふくろう, Shindô Kaneto, 2003)
- Owl's Castle* (*Fukurô no shiro*, 梟の城, Shinoda Masahiro, 1999)
- Pacchigi!* (パッチギ!, Izutsu Kazuyuki, 2004)
- Pacchigi! Love & Peace* (パッチギ! LOVE & PEACE, Izutsu Kazuyuki, 2007)
- Paco and the Magic Book* (*Pako to mahô no ehon*, パコと魔法の絵本, Nakashima Tetsuya, 2008)
- A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ippêji*, 狂った一頁, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1926)
- Alt. *A Page Out of Order*; *A Crazy Page*.
- Pale Flower* (*Kawaita hana*, 乾いた花, Shinoda Masahiro, 1964)
- The Palette Knife Murder* (*Paretto naifu no satsujin*, パレットナイフの殺人, Hisamatsu Seiji, 1946)
- Panda! Go Panda!* (*Panda kopanda*, パンダ・コパンダ, Takahata Isao, 1972)
- Panda! Go Panda! Rainy Day Circus* (*Panda kopanda: Amefuri sâkasu no maki*, パンダ・コパンダ 雨降りサーカスの巻, Takahata Isao, 1973)
- Panic in High School* (*Kôkô dai panikku*, 高校大パニック, Sawada Yukihiro, 1977). Alt. *High School Big Panic*; *Panic High School*.
- Panic in High School* (*Kôkô dai panikku*, 高校大パニック, Sawada Yukihiro and Ishii Sôgo, 1978). Alt. *High School Big Panic*; *Panic High School*.
- Paprika* (パプリカ, Papurika, Kon Satoshi, 2006)
- Parade* (*Parêdo*, パレード, Yukisada Isao, 2009)
- Paranoid Agent* (*Môsô dairinin*, 妄想代理人, Kon Satoshi, 2004) (TV)
- Parasite Eve* (*Parasaito ibu*, パラサイト・イヴ, Ochiai Masayuki, 1997)
- Parent* (*Oya*, 親, Shimizu Hiroshi, 1929)
- Party 7* (PARTY 7, Ishii Katsuhito, 2000)
- Passion of a Woman Teacher* (*Kyôren no onna shishô*, 狂恋の女師匠, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1926)
- Pastoral: To Die in the Country* (*Denen ni Shisu*, 田園に死す, Terayama Shûji, 1974)

- Patlabor: The Movie* (*Kidô keisatsu patorebâ*, 機動警察パトレイバー, Oshii Mamoru, 1989). Alt. *Patlabor I: Mobile Police*.
- Patriotism* (*Yûkoku*, 憂国, Mishima Yukio, 1966). Alt. *The Rite of Love and Death*.
- Peking* (*Pekin*, 北京, Kamei Fumio, 1938)
- People Awaiting Spring* (*Haru o matsu hitobito*, 春を待つ人々, Nakamura Noboru, 1959)
- Perfect Blue* (Kon Satoshi, 1998)
- The Petrified Forest* (*Kaseki no mori*, 化石の森, Shinoda Masahiro, 1973)
- The Phantom of Regular Size* (*Futsû saizu no kaijin*, 普通サイズの怪人, Tsukamoto Shinya, 1986)
- The Phantom Ship* (*Yûreisen*, 幽霊船, Ôfuji Noburô, 1956)
- Phoenix: Karma Chapter* (*Hi no tori: hôô-hen*, 火の鳥 鳳凰編, Rintarô, 1986).
- Phoenix 2772* (*Hi no tori 2772: Ai no Kosumozôn*, 火の鳥2772 愛のコスモゾーン, Sugiyama Taku, 1980)
- Picnic* (*PiCNiC*, Iwai Shunji, 1994/96)
- Pictures at an Exhibition* (*Tenrankai no e*, 展覧会の絵, Tezuka Osamu, 1966)
- Pig Chicken Suicide* (*Tonkei shinjû*, 豚鶏心中, Matsui Yoshihiko, 1981)
- Pigs and Battleships* (*Buta to gunkan*, 豚と軍艦, Imamura Shôhei, 1961). Alt. *Hogs and Warships; The Flesh Is Hot*.
- Pink Lady: The Motion Picture* (*Pinku rêdî no katsudô daishashin*, ピンクレディの活動大写真, Kotani Shûsei, 1978)
- Pistol Opera* (*Pisutoru opera*, ピストルオペラ, Suzuki Seijun, 2001)
- Pitfall* (*Otoshiana*, おとし穴, Teshigahara Hiroshi, 1962)
- Pleasures of the Flesh* (*Etsuraku*, 悦楽, Ôshima Nagisa, 1965)
- A Poet's Life* (*Shijin no shôgai*, 詩人の生涯, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1974)
- Pokémon: The First Movie* (Yuyama Kunihiko/Michael Haigney, 1999). Alt. *Pocket Monsters: Mewtwo Strikes Back!*
- The Police Officer* (*Keisatsukan*, 警察官, Uchida Tomu, 1933)
- Pompoko* (*Heisei tanuki gassen ponpoko*, 平成狸合戦ぽんぽこ, Takahata Isao, 1994)
- Ponyo on a Cliff* (*Gake no ue no Ponyo*, 崖の上のポニョ, Miyazaki Hayao, 2008)
- A Pool Without Water* (*Mizu no nai pûru*, 水のないプール, Wakamatsu Kôji, 1982)
- Poppoya: The Railroad Man* (鉄道員(ぽっぽや) Poppoya, Furuhashi Yasuo, 1999)
- The Poppy* (*Gubijinsô*, 虞美人草, Henry Kotani, 1921)
- Porco Rosso* (*Kurenai no buta*, 紅の豚, Miyazaki Hayao, 1992)
- The Pornographers* (*Erogotoshitachi yori: jinruigaku nyûmon*, エロ事師たちより 人類学入門, Imamura Shôhei, 1966)

- Portrait of Hell* (*Jigokuhen*, 地獄変, Toyoda Shirô, 1969)
- Portrait of Madame Yuki* (*Yuki fujin ezu*, 雪夫人絵図, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1950)
- Post Card* (*Ichimai no hagaki*, 一枚のハガキ, Shindô Kaneto, 2010)
- Postman Blues* (*Posutoman burûsu*, ポストマン・ブルース, Sabu, 1997)
- Postwar Cruel Story* (*Sengo zankoku monogatari*, 戦後残酷物語, Takechi Tetsuji, 1968)
- The Pot Worth a Million Ryo* (*Tange Sazen yowa: Hyakuman ryô no tsubo*, 丹下左膳余話 百万両の壺, Yamanaka Sadao, 1935)
- The Precipice* (*Hyôheki*, 氷壁, Masumura Yasuzô, 1958)
- Premonition* (*Yogen*, 予言, Tsuruta Norio, 2004)
- Preparations for the Festival* (*Matsuri no junbi*, 祭りの準備, Kuroki Kazuo, 1975)
- Pride* (*Puraido: Unmei no toki*, プライド 運命の瞬間, Itô Shunya, 1998). Alt. *Pride: The Fateful Moment*.
- Princess from the Moon* (*Taketori monogatari*, 竹取物語, Ichikawa Kon, 1987). Alt. *Kaguya*.
- Princess Go* (*Gô-hime*, 豪姫, Teshigahara Hiroshi, 1992). Alt. *Basara: The Princess Goh*.
- Princess in an Iron Helmet* (*Korogare! Tamako*, 転がれ! たま子, Shindô Kaze, 2006)
- Princess Knight* (*Ribon no kishi*, リボンの騎士, Tezuka Osamu, 1967–1968) (TV)
- Princess Melon and the Changeling* (*Uriko-hime to Amanjaku*, 瓜子姫とあまのじゃく, Mochinaga Tadahito, 1956)
- Princess Mononoke* (*もののけ姫*, Mononoke-hime, Miyazaki Hayao, 1997)
- Princess Raccoon* (*Operetta: Tanuki goten*, オペレッタ 狸御殿, Suzuki Seijun, 2005)
- Princess Yang Kwei-fei* (*Yôkihi*, 楊貴妃, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1955). Alt. *The Empress Yang Kwei Fei*.
- Private Norakuro: Drill Reel* (*Norakuro Nidôhei: Kyôren no maki*, のらくろ二等兵 教練の巻, Murata Yasuji, 1933). Alt. *Private Second-Class Norakuro*.
- The Procurer* (*Himo*, ひも, Sekigawa Hideo, 1965)
- The Profound Desire of the Gods* (*Kamigami no fukaki yokubô*, 神々の深き欲望, Imamura Shôhei, 1968). Alt. *Kuragejima: Legends from a Southern Island*.
- Proof of the Man* (*Ningen no shômei*, 人間の証明, Satô Junya, 1977)
- Prophecy* (*Yogen*, Hani Susumu, 1982)
- Punishment Island* (*Shokei no shima*, 処刑の島, Shinoda Masahiro, 1966). Alt. *Captive's Island*.

- Punishment Room (Shokei no heya, 処刑の部屋, Ichikawa Kon, 1956)*
The Pure White Night (Junpaku no yoru, 純白の夜, Oba Hideo, 1951)
Pulse (Kairo, 回路, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2001)
Pu-san (Pû-san, プーサン, Ichikawa Kon, 1953)
Puss in Boots (Nagagutsu o haita neko, 長靴をはいた猫, Yabuki Kimirô, 1969)
Quartet (Karutetto, Quartet カルテット, Hisaishi Jô, 2001). Alt. 4 Movement.
Queen Bee (Joôbachi, 女王蜂, Taguchi Satoshi, 1958)
A Quiet Life (Shizuku na seikatsu, 静かな生活, Itami Jûzô, 1995)
Quill (Kuîru, クイール, Sai Yôichi, 2004)
R246 Story (R246 STORY, Asano Tadanobu, 2008)
Radishes and Carrots (Daikon to ninjin, 大根と人参, Shibuya Minoru, 1965)
The Raging Lion (Abare-jishi, あばれ獅子, Ôsone Tatsuo, 1953)
Rain of Light (Hakari no ame, 光の雨, Takahashi Banmei, 2001)
A Rainbow Plays in My Heart (Waga mune ni niji wa kiezu, わが胸に虹は消えず, Honda Ishirô, two parts, 1957)
Rainy Dog (Gokudô kuroshakai: Rainy Dog, 極道黒社会 RAINY DOG, Miike Takashi, 1997)
Rampo Noir (Rampo jigoku, 乱歩地獄, Takeuchi Suguru/Jissôji Akio/Satô Hisayasu/Kaneko Atsushi, 2005)
Ran (乱, Kurosawa Akira, 1985)
Rare Story of the 47 Ronin (Chinsetsu Chûshingura, 珍説忠臣蔵, Saitô Torajirô, 1953)
Rasen (Rasen, らせん, Iida Jôji, 1998). Alt. The Spiral.
Rashomon (Rashômon, 羅生門, Kurosawa Akira, 1950)
Reach Out for the Elderly's Care (Chiiki o tsumugu: Saku sôgô byôin koumicho shinryôjo kara, 地域をつむぐ — 佐久総合病院小海町診療所から, Tokieda Toshie, 1996)
Ready to Shoot (Ware ni utsu yoi ari, われに撃つ用意あり, Wakamatsu Kôji, 1990)
Record of a Kindergarten Teacher (Aru hobo no kiroku, 或る保姆の記録, Mizuki Sôya 1942). Alt. Record of a Certain Nursery.
Record of a Tenement Gentleman (Nagaya shinshi roku, 長屋紳士録, Ozu Yasujirô, 1947)
A Record of Love and Death (Ai to shi no kiroku, 愛と死の記録, Kurahara Koreyoshi, 1966). Alt. The Heart of Hiroshima.
A Record of Shameless Newlyweds (Oshikiri shinkonki, 押切新婚記, Naruse Mikio, 1930)
Red Angel (Akai tenshi, 赤い天使, Masumura Yasuzô, 1966)
Red Army-PFLP Declaration of World War (Sekigun-PFLP: Sekai sensô sen-gen, 赤軍—PFLP 世界戦争宣言, Adachi Masao, 1971)

- The Red Bat* (*Kuro kômorî*, 紅蝙蝠, Kinugasa Teinosuke, 1950)
- Red Beard* (*Akahige*, 赤ひげ, Kurosawa Akira, 1965)
- Red Handkerchief* (*Akai hankachi*, 赤いハンカチ, Masuda Toshio, 1964)
- Red-Lacquered Sword Sheath Moral Code* (*Shuzaya jingi*, 朱鞘仁義, Saitô Buichi, 1969, two parts)
- Red Lion* (*Akage*, 赤毛, Okamoto Kihachi, 1969)
- Red Peony Gambler* (*Hibotan bakuto*, 緋牡丹博徒, Yamashita Kôzaku, 1968, eight parts). Alt. *Lady Yakuza*.
- Red Persimmons* (*Manzan benigaki*, 満山紅柿, Peng Xiaolian and Ogawa Shinsuke, 2001)
- Red Quay* (*Akai hatoba*, 赤い波止場, Masuda Toshio, 1958)
- Red Shadow: Akakage* (RED SHADOW 赤影, Nakano Hiroyuki, 2001)
- The Red Spectacles* (*Akai megane*, 赤い眼鏡, Oshii Mamoru, 1987)
- Red Water* (*Akai mizu*, 赤い水, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1963)
- Reincarnation* (*Rinne*, 輪廻, Shimizu Takashi, 2006)
- Remember General Nogi* (*Omoi okose Nogi shôgun*, 憶ひ起せ乃木将軍, Yoshimura Misao, 1932)
- Remnants of Chivalry* (*Zankyô*, 残侠 ZANKYO, Sekimoto Ikuo, 1999)
- Rennyo and His Mother* (*Rennyo to sono haha*, 蓮如とその母, Kawamoto Kihachirô, 1981)
- Repast* (*Meshi*, めし, Naruse Mikio, 1951)
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- Urusei Yatsura 1: Only You* (*Urusei yatsura: Onrî yû*, うる星やつら オンリー・ユー, Oshii Mamoru, 1983)
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- Vertigo College* (*Shigarami gakuen*, しがらみ学園, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 1980)
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- The Victory of Women* (*Josei no shôri*, 女性の勝利, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1946)
- Victory Song* (*Hisshôka*, 必勝歌, Mizoguchi Kenji/Tasaka Tomotaka/Shimizu Hiroshi/Makino Masahiro, 1945)
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- The Village of Eight Gravestones* (*Yatsukahamura*, 八つ墓村, Ichikawa Kon, 1996). Alt. *The 8-Tomb Village*.
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- Vital* (*Vitâru*, ヴィタール, Tsukamoto Shinya, 2004)
- Voice of Dog* (*Inugoe*, イヌゴエ, Yokoi Takeshi, 2005)
- The Voice of the Sea Calling* (*Umi no yobu koe*, 海の呼ぶ声, Igayama Masanori, 1945)
- The Voices of a Distant Star* (*Hoshi no koe*, ほしのこえ, Shinkai Makoto, 2002)
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- Walking with the Dog* (*Inu to arukeba: Chirori to Tamura*, 犬と歩けば チロリとタムラ, Shinozaki Makoto, 2004)
- The Wanderers* (*Matatabi*, 股旅, Ichikawa Kon, 1973)
- Wanderer's Map* (*Meisô chizu*, 迷走地図, Nomura Yoshitarô, 1983)
- A Wanderer's Notebook* (*Hôkôri*, 放浪記, Naruse Mikio, 1962). Alt. *Her Lonely Lane*.
- The Wandering Peddlers* (*Tabisuru Pao Jian Fû*, 旅するパオジャンフー, Yanagimachi Mitsuo, 1995)
- The Wandering Princess* (*Ruten no ôhi*, 流転の王妃, Tanaka Kinuyo, 1960)
- War and Peace* (*Sensô to heiwa*, 戦争と平和, Kamei Fumio/Yamamoto Sat-suo, 1947). Alt. *Between War and Peace*.
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- The War in Space* (*Wakusei daisensô: THE WAR IN SPACE*, 惑星大戦争 THE WAR IN SPACE, Fukuda Jun, 1977)
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- Warm Current* (*Danryû*, 暖流, Yoshimura Kozaburô, 1939)
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- Warm Water Under a Red Bridge* (*Akai hashi no shita no nurui mizu*, 赤い橋の下のぬるい水, Imamura Shôhei, 2001)
- Warning from Space* (*Uchûjin Tôkyô ni arawaru*, 宇宙人東京に現わる, Shima Kôji, 1956). Alt. *The Mysterious Satellite*.
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- Watch Out: Crimson Bat!* (*Mekura no Oichi: Midaregasa*, めくらのお市 みだれ笠, Ichimura Hirokazu, 1969)
- The Water Magician* (*Taki no shiraito*, 滝の白糸, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1933). Alt. *Cascading White Threads; White Threads of the Waterfall*.
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- The Weald* (*Somado monogatari*, 杣人物語, Kawase Naomi, 1998)

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What Is Youth? (*Seishun to wa nan da*, 青春とはなんだ, Masuda Toshio, 1965)

What Made Her Do It? (*Nani ga kanojo o sô sasetaka*, 何が彼女をそうさせたか, Suzuki Shigeyoshi, 1930)

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The White Lily Laments (*Shirayuri wa nageku*, 白百合は歎く, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1925)

White Line (*Shirosen himitsu chitai*, 白線秘密地帯, Ishii Teruo, 1958). Alt. *Call Girl Territory*.

White Lotus (*Byakuren*, 白蓮, Kimura Keigo, 1932)

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A Woman Called Abe Sada (*Jitsuroku Abe Sada*, 実録阿部定, Tanaka Noboru, 1975). Alt. *The True Story of Sada Abe*.

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The Woman in the Black Dress (*Kuroi doresu no onna*, 黒いドレスの女, Sai Yôichi, 1987)

Woman in the Dunes (*Suna no onna*, 砂の女, Teshigahara Hiroshi, 1964)

Woman in Witness Protection (*Marutai no onna*, マルタイの女, Itami Jûzô, 1997)

A Woman of Osaka (*Naniwa onna*, 浪花女, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1940)

A Woman of Rumor (Uwasa no onna, 噂の女, Mizoguchi Kenji, 1954). Alt. The Crucified Woman.

Woman of Shanghai (Shanghai no onna, 上海の女, Inagaki Hiroshi, 1952)

A Woman of the Genroku Era (Genroku onna, 元禄女, Nomura Hôtei, 1924)

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The Woman Who Came from the Bottom of the Sea (Kaitei kara kita onna, 海底から来た女, Kurahara Koreyoshi, 1959)

The Woman Who Touched Legs (Ashi ni sawatta onna, 足にさわった女, Abe Yutaka, 1926)

The Woman Who Touched Legs (Ashi ni sawatta onna, 足にさわった女, Ichikawa Kon, 1952)

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A Woman's Voyage (Josei kôrô, 女性航路, Sasaki Keisuke, 1944)

A Woman's Work (Torabaiyu, Ôtani Kentarô, 2002). Alt. Travail.

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World Apartment Horror (Wârudo apâtomento horâ, ワールド・アパートメント・ホラー, Ôtomo Katushiro, 1991)

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The World Turns Part 2: Present Day Chapter (Chikyû wa mawaru: Dainibu: Gendai-hen, 地球は回る 第二部 現代篇, Abe Yutaka, 1928)

The World Turns Part 3: Fantasy Chapter (Chikyû wa mawaru: Daisanbu: Kûsô-hen, 地球は回る 第三部 空想篇, Uchida Tomu, 1928)

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Yakuza Graveyard (*Yakuza no hakaba: Kuchinashi no hana*, やくざの墓場くちなしの花, Fukasaku Kinji, 1976). Alt. *Yakuza Burial: Jasmine Flower*.

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Yellow Line (*Ôsen chitai*, 黄線地帯, Ishii Teruo, 1960)

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The Yin Yang Master (*Onmyôji*, 陰陽師, Takita Yôjirô, 2001)

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- Yoshino's Barber Shop* (*Bâbâ Yoshino*, ババ吉野, Ogigami Naoko, 2003)
- Yoshitsune and the Thousand Cherry Trees* (*Yoshitsune senbon-zakura*, 義経千本桜, Yoshino Jirô, 1914)
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- Yotsuya Ghost Story, New Version* (*Shinban Yotsuya kaidan*, 新版四谷怪談, Itô Daisuke, 1928)
- You Are the Next Wild Eagles* (*Kimi koso tsugi no arawashi da*, 君こそ次の荒鷲だ, Hozumi Toshimasa, 1944)
- Young Beast* (*Wakai kemono*, 若い獣, Ishihara Shintarô, 1958)
- Young Boss* (*Waka oyabun*, 若親分, Ikehiro Kazuo, 1965)
- Young Guy at University* (*Daigaku no wakadaishô*, 大学の若大将, Sugie Toshio, 1961). Alt. *Bull of the Campus*; *Sir Galahad in Campus*.
- Young Guy in Ginza* (銀座の若大将, Sugie Toshio, 1962). Alt. *Pride of the Campus*.
- Young Guy in Hawaii* (*Hawai no wakadaishô*, ハワイの若大将, Fukuda Jun, 1962)
- Young Guy in Rio* (*Rio no wakadaishô*, リオの若大将, Iwauchi Katsuki, 1966)
- Young Guy in the Alps* (*Arupusu no wakadaishô*, アルプスの若大将, Furu-sawa Kengo, 1966). Alt. *It Started in the Alps*.
- The Young Miss* (*Ojôsan*, お嬢さん, Yamamoto Satsuo, 1937)
- Young Murderer* (*Seishun no satsujinsha*, 青春の殺人者, Hasegawa Kazuhiko, 1976)
- Youth in Fury* (*Shika mo karera wa yuku*, しかも彼等は行く, Tetsurô Ôno, 1960)
- Youth of the Beast* (*Yajû no seishun*, 野獣の青春, Suzuki Seijun, 1963). Alt. *The Young Rebel*; *The Brute*.
- Youth Part 2* (*Seishun Part II*, 青春 PART II, Ohara Kôyû, 1979)
- Yukie* (ユキエ, Matsui Hisako, 1998)
- Yume no mani mani* (夢のまにまに, Kimura Takeo, 2008)
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- Yunbogi's Diary* (*Yunbogi no nikki*, ユンボギの日記, Ôshima Nagisa, 1965)
- Zatoichi: Darkness Is His Ally* (*Zatôichi*, 座頭市, Katsu Shintarô, 1989) Alt. *Shintaro Katsu's Zatoichi*; *Zatôichi 26*.
- Zatoichi at Large* (*Zatôichi goyô-tabi*, 座頭市御用旅, Mori Issei, 1972). Alt. *Zatoichi 23*.
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Zatoichi Meets the One-Armed Swordsman (*Shin Zatoichi: Yabure! Tôjin-ken*, 新座頭市・破れ!唐人剣, Yasuda Kimiyoshi, 1971). Alt. *The Blind Swordsman Meets His Equal*; *Zatoichi Meets His Match*; *Zatoichi 22*.

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Zeburaman (*Zeburâman*, ゼブラーマン, Miike Takashi, 2004)

Zegen (女衞 ZEGEN, Imamura Shôhei, 1987)

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Zigeunerweisen (*Tsigoineruwaizen*, ツィゴイネルワイゼン, Suzuki Seijun, 1980)

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Appendix C

Individuals Referenced in Text

DIRECTORS

ABE YUTAKA (阿部豊); a.k.a. Jack Yutaka Abbe.
ADACHI MASAO (足立正生)
ADACHI NOBUO (安達伸生)
AKASAKA NAGAYOSHI (赤坂長義)
AKIMOTO KEN (秋元憲)
ANDÔ MOMOKO (安藤桃子)
AOYAGI NOBUO (青柳信雄)
ANNO HIDEAKI (庵野秀明)
ARAI RYÔHEI (荒井良平)
ARAMAKI SHINJI (荒牧伸志)
ASATO MARI (安里麻里)
ASÔ MANABU (麻生学)
BANNO YOSHIMITSU (坂野義光)
CHIBA KICHIZÔ (千葉吉蔵)
CHIBA YASUKI (千葉泰樹)
DAIKUHARA AKIRA (大工原章)
DEZAKI OSAMU (出崎統)
EDAGAWA HIROMU (枝川弘)
EDAMASA YOSHIRO (枝正義郎)
FUJII KATSUHIKO (藤井克彦)
FUJITA MEIJI (藤田明二)
FUJITA TOSHIYA (藤田敏八)
FUJIWARA KEI (藤原京)
FUKASAKU KENTA (深作健太)
FUKUDA JUN (福田純)
FUKUI SHINSABURÔ (福井信三郎)
FUKUMOTO YOSHITO (福本義人)
FURUHATA YASUO (降旗康男)
FURUKAWA TAKUMI (古川卓巳)
FURUMAYA TOMOYUKI (古厩智之)

FURUMI TAKUJI (古海卓二)
FURUSAWA KENGO (古沢憲吾)
FUSHIMIZU OSAMU (伏水修)
FUTAGAWA BUNTARÔ (二川文太郎)
GAIRA (ガイラ); a.k.a. KOMIZU KAZUO
GOSHA HIDEO (五社英雄)
GOSHO HEINOSUKE (五所平之助)
GOTÔ TOSHIO (後藤俊夫)
HAGIWARA RYÔ (萩原遼)
HARA TAKAHITO (原隆仁)
HARADA HIROSHI (原田浩)
HAMANO SACHI (浜野佐知)
HARADA MASATO (原田真人)
HASE KAZUO (長谷和夫)
HASEBE YASUHARU (長谷部安春)
HASEGAWA YASUTO (長谷川安人)
HASHIGUCHI RYÔSUKE (橋口亮輔)
HASHIMOTO KÔJI (橋本幸治)
HASUMI EIICHIRO (羽住英一郎)
HATA MASANORI (畑正憲)
HATANAKA RYÔHA (畑中夢坡)
HAYASHI ISAO (林功)
HAYASHI SHIGEYUKI (林重行); a.k.a. RINTARÔ.
HIGUCHI SHINJI (樋口真嗣)
HIRANO KATSUMI (平野克己)
HIRATA TOSHIO (平田敏夫)
HIRAYAMA HIDEYUKI (平山秀幸)
HISAMATSU SEIJI (久松静児)
HORI KAWA HIROMICHI (堀川弘通)
HORI KAWA TONKÔ (堀川敦厚)
HOSHI MAMORU (星護)
HOSODA MAMORU (細田守)
HOSOYAMA TOMOAKI (細山智明)
HOZUMI TOSHIMASA (穂積利昌)
ICHIKAWA JUN (市川準)
ICHIMURA HIROKAZU (市村泰一)
IDEMITSU MAKO (出光真子)
IEKI MIYOJI (家城巳代治)
IGAYAMA MASANORI (伊賀山正徳, also written 伊賀山正光)
IGUCHI NAMI (井口奈己)
IGUCHI NOBORU (井口昇)

IIDA JÔJI (飯田譲治); a.k.a. George Iida.
 IIMURA TAKAHIKO (飯村隆彦)
 IJÛIN GÔ (伊集院剛). *See dictionary entry for HIROKI RYÛICHI.*
 IKEDA HIROSHI (池田宏)
 IKEDA TOMIYASU (池田富保)
 IKEDA TOSHIHARU (池田敏春)
 IKEDA YOSHINOBU (池田義信)
 IKEHIRO KAZUO (池広一夫)
 IKEUCHI YOSHITOYO (池内義豊). *See ITAMI MANSAKU.*
 IKEUCHI TAKEHIKO (池内岳彦). *See dictionary entry for ITAMI JÛZÔ.*
 IMAI TADASHI (今井正)
 IMAMURA DAISUKE (今村大介). *See TENGAN DAISUKE.*
 INAGAKI HIROSHI (稲垣浩)
 INOMATA RYÛICHI (猪股隆一)
 INOUE AKIRA (井上昭)
 INOUE KINTARÔ (井上金太郎)
 INOUE UMETSUGU (井上梅次)
 INUZUKA MINORU (犬塚稔)
 ISAKA SATOSHI (井坂聡)
 ISHIGURO NOBORU (石黒昇)
 ISHII KATSUHITO (石井克人)
 ISHII TAKASHI (石井隆)
 ISHII TERUO (石井輝男)
 ISHII YASU HARU (石井康晴)
 ISHIKAWA SEIJI (石川聖二)
 ISSHIN INUDÔ (犬童一心)
 ITAMI MANSAKU (伊丹万作)
 ITÔ DAISUKE (伊藤大輔)
 ITÔ SHUNYA (伊藤俊也)
 ITSUMI TADAHICO (磯見忠彦)
 IWAFUJI SHISETSU (岩藤思雪)
 IWAI SHUNJI (岩井俊二)
 IWAUCHI KATSUKKI (岩内克己)
 IZUMI SEIJI (和泉聖治)
 IZUTSU KAZUYUKI (井筒和幸)
 JISSÔJI AKIO (実相寺昭雄)
 JÛNOUCHI MOTO HARU (城之内元晴)
 KADONO GORÔ (加戸野五郎)
 KAERIYAMA NORIMASA (帰山教正)
 KANEKO ATSUSHI (カネコアツシ)
 KANEKO SHÛSUKE (金子修介)

KARA JÛRÔ (唐十郎)
 KATAOKA SHÛJI (片岡修二)
 KATO BIN (加戸敏)
 KATÔ KUNIO (加藤久仁生)
 KATÔ TAI (加藤泰)
 KATSUMATA TOMOHARU (勝間田具治)
 KATSUMI YOTARÔ (勝見庸太郎)
 KAWAGUCHI TETSUJI (川口鐵二). *See dictionary entry for TAKECHI TETSUJI.*
 KAWAJIRI YOSHIAKI (川尻善昭)
 KAWAMORI SHÔJI (河森正治)
 KAWASAKI HIROTSUGE (川崎博嗣)
 KAWASAKI YOSHISUKE (河崎義祐)
 KAWASHIMA TÔRU (川島透)
 KAWASHIMA YÛZÔ (川島雄三)
 KAWAZU YOSHIRO (川頭義郎)
 KAZAMA SHIORI (風間志織)
 KIMURA HAKUZAN (木村白山)
 KIMATA AKITAKA (木俣堯喬)
 KIMURA KEIGO (木村恵吾)
 KITAMURA RYÛHEI (北村龍平)
 KIMURA SOTOJI (木村莊十二)
 KITAKUBO HIROYUKI (北久保弘之)
 KITAYAMA SEITARÔ (山清太郎)
 KOBAYASHI MASAHIRO (小林政広)
 KOBAYASHI MASAKI (小林正樹)
 KOBAYASHI SATORU (小林悟)
 KOBAYASHI TSUNEO (小林恒夫)
 KOGA MASATO (古賀聖人)
 KOMADA KÔYÔ (駒田好洋)
 KOMATSUBARA KAZUO (小松原一夫)
 KOMIZU KAZUO (小水一男); a.k.a. GAIRA.
 KOMORI KIYOSHI (小森白)
 KON HIDEMI (今日出海)
 KON SATOSHI (今敏)
 KONDÔ IYOKICHI (近藤伊與吉)
 KONDÔ YOSHIFUMI (近藤喜文)
 KONISHI TÔRU (小西亨)
 KONUMA MASARU (小沼勝)
 KOTANI HENRY (KOTANI HENRÎ, 小谷ヘンリー)
 KOTANI SHÛSEI (小谷承靖)

KÔUCHI JUNICHI (幸内純一)
 KÔYAMA SEIJIRÔ (神山征二郎)
 KUDÔ EIICHI (工藤栄一)
 KUDÔ KANKURÔ (宮藤官九郎)
 KUMAGAI HISATORA (熊谷久虎)
 KUMAKIRI KAZUYOSHI (熊切和嘉)
 KUMASAKA IZURU (熊坂出)
 KUMASHIRO TATSUMI (神代辰巳)
 KURAHARA KORETSUGU (蔵原惟二)
 KURAHARA KOREYOSHI (蔵原惟繕)
 KURIHARA KISABURÔ (栗原喜三郎). *See* KURIHARA THOMAS.
 KURIHARA THOMAS (KURIHAMA TÔMASU, 栗原トーマス); a.k.a.
 KURIHARA KISABURÔ.
 KURISAKI MIDORI (栗崎碧)
 KURODA YOSHIYUKI (黒田義之)
 KUROKI KAZUO (黒木和雄)
 KURI YÔJI (久里洋二)
 KURIYAMA TOMIO (栗山富夫)
 KUROKI KAZUO (黒木和雄)
 LEE SANG-IL (李相日)
 MATOBA CHISE (的場ちせ). *See* HAMANO SACHI.
 MAEJIMA KENICHI (前島健一)
 MAGADANI MORIHEI (曲谷守平)
 MAKINO MASAHIRO (マキノ雅弘, also マキノ正博)
 MANDA KUNITOSHI (万田邦敏)
 MARUNE SANTARÔ (丸根賛太郎)
 MARUYAMA SEIJI (丸山誠治)
 MASAKI MORI (真崎守)
 MASAOKA KENZÔ (政岡憲三)
 MASUMOTO SHÔICHIRO (増本庄一郎)
 MATSUBAYASHI SHÛEI (松林宗恵)
 MATSUDA SADATSUGU (松田定次)
 MATSUE TETSUAKI (松江哲朗)
 MATSUI HISAKO (松井久子)
 MATSUI MINORU (松井稔)
 MATSUI YOSHIHIKO (松井良彦)
 MATSUMOTO MASASHI (松本正志)
 MATSUMOTO TOSHIO (松本俊夫)
 MATSUNO HIROSHI (松野宏軌)
 MATSUO AKINORI (松尾昭典)
 MATSUOKA JÔJI (松岡錠司)

MATSUYAMA ZENZÔ (松山善三)
MAYUZUMI RINTARÔ (黛りんたろう)
MEIKE MITSURU (女池充)
MIKI SATOSHI (三木聡)
MIKI SHIGERU (三木茂)
MISUMI KENJI (三隅研次)
MITANI KÔKI (三谷幸喜)
MITSUWA AKIRA (三輪彰)
MIYAGI MARIKO (宮城まり子)
MIYANO MASAYUKI (宮野雅之)
MIYATA TOMIKAZU (宮田十三一)
MIYAZAKI GORÔ (宮崎吾朗)
MIZUGAE RYÛICHI (水ヶ江竜一)
MIZUKI SÔYA (水木荘也)
MIZUTANI TOSHIYUKI (水谷俊之)
MOCHIZUKI ROKURÔ (望月六郎)
MOCHIZUKI TOMOMI (望月智充)
MOKUTÔ SHIGERU (木藤茂)
MOMOI KAORI (桃井かおり)
MORI KAZUO (森一生)
MORI TATSUYA (森達也)
MORIMOTO KÔJI (森本晃司)
MORIMOTO RISA (森本りさ)
MORINAGA KENJIRÔ (森永健次郎)
MORITA HIROYUKI (森田宏幸)
MORITA YOSHIMITSU (森田芳光)
MORITANI SHIRÔ (森谷司郎)
MOTOHIRO KATSUYUKI (本広克行)
MOTOKI KATSUhide (本木克英)
MUKAI KAN (向井寛); a.k.a. MUKAI HIROSHI.
MURAKAMI KENJI (村上賢司)
MURAKAMI SHÔSUKE (村上正典)
MURAKAWA TÔRU (村川透)
MURATA MINORU (村田実)
MURATA TAKEO (村田武雄)
MURATA YASUJI (村田安司)
MURAYAMA MITSUO (村山三男)
MUROGA ATSUSHI (室賀厚)
NAGAISHI TAKAO (長石多可男)
NAGAMINE TAKAFUMI (長嶺高文)
NAGAO SHIROKU (長尾史録)

NAGAOKA AKINORI (永丘昭典)
 NAGASAKI SHUNICHI (長崎俊一)
 NAKAGAWA JIRÔ (中川紫郎)
 NAKAHARA SHUN (中原俊)
 NAKAHIRA KÔ (中平康)
 NAKAJIMA HÔZÔ (中島宝三)
 NAKAJIMA SADAÔ (中島貞夫)
 NAKAMURA GENJI (中村幻児)
 NAKAMURA NOBORU (中村登)
 NAKAMURA TOSHI (中村福). *See dictionary entry for* ICHIKAWA KON.
 NAKANAMI RYÔTA (川浪良太)
 NAKANO HIROYUKI (中野裕之)
 NAOKI SANJÛGO (直木三十五)
 NEGISHI KICHITARÔ (根岸吉太郎)
 NIHONMATSU KAZUI (二本松嘉瑞)
 NINAGAWA MIKA (蜷川実花)
 NISHIKAWA KATSUMI (西河克己)
 NISHIKAWA MIWA (西川美和)
 NISHIMURA SHÔGORÔ (西村昭五郎)
 NISHIMURA YOSHIHIRO (西村喜廣)
 NISHIYAMA MASATERU (西山正輝)
 NISHIYAMA YÔICHI (西山洋一)
 NODA YUKIO (野田幸男)
 NOGUCHI HARUYASU (野口晴康)
 NOMURA HIROMASA (野村浩将, also 野村員彦)
 NOMURA HÔTEI (野村芳亭)
 NOMURA TAKASHI (野村孝)
 NOMURA YOSHITARÔ (野村芳太郎)
 NUMATA KÔROKU (沼田紅緑)
 NUNOKAWA TETSURÔ (布川徹郎)
 ÔBA HIDEO (大庭秀雄)
 ÔBAYASHI NOBUHIKO (大林宣彦)
 OBITANI YURI (帯谷有理)
 OCHIAI MASAYUKI (落合正幸)
 OCHIAI NAMIO (落合浪雄)
 OCHIAI YOSHIHITO (落合吉人)
 ODA MOTOYOSHI (小田基義)
 OGAWA KINYA (小川欽也)
 OGIGAMI NAOKO (荻上直子)
 ÔGIMACHI KYÔKO (扇町京子)
 OGURI KÔHEI (小栗康平)

OHARA KÔYÛ (小原宏裕)
 ÔHASHI FUMINORI (大橋史典)
 OIKAWA ATARU (及川中)
 ÔISHI IKUO (大石郁雄)
 OKADA KEI (岡田敬)
 OKADA MATSUE (芳賀松枝); a.k.a. ATSUGI TAKA.
 OKAMOTO KIHACHI (岡本喜八)
 OKAMOTO TADANARI (岡本忠成)
 OKAMOTO YOSHIHIKO (岡本愛彦)
 OKAMURA TENSAI (岡村天齋)
 OKAWA SHUNDÔ (大川俊道)
 ÔKAWARA TAKAO (大河原孝夫)
 OKISHIMA ISAO (沖島勲)
 OKUDA EIJI (奥田瑛二)
 OKUDA HIDEHIKO (奥田秀彦)
 OKUWAKI TOSHIO (奥脇敏夫)
 ÔMORI KAZUKI (大森一樹)
 ÔMORI TATSUSHI (森立嗣)
 ONCHI HIDEO (恩地日出夫)
 ÔNO TETSURÔ (大野徹郎)
 OSANAI KAORU (小山内薫)
 ÔSONE TATSUO (大曾根辰夫)
 ÔTA KÔJI (太田浩児)
 ÔTANI KENTARÔ (大谷健太郎)
 ÔTANI TOSHIO (大谷俊夫)
 ÔTSUKA YASUO (大塚康生)
 OZAKI JUN (尾崎純)
 OZAWA SHIGEHIO (小沢茂弘)
 RINTARÔ (りんたろう). *See* HAYASHI SHIGEYUKI.
 SAEGUSA GENJIRÔ (三枝源次郎)
 SAEGUSA KENKI (三枝健起)
 SAEKI KIYOSHI (佐伯清)
 SAGAWARA HIROSHI (菅原浩志) (also written 菅原比呂志)
 SAITÔ BUICHI (斎藤武市)
 SAITÔ HAKKÔ (西藤八耕)
 SAITÔ KÔICHI (斎藤耕一)
 SAITÔ KÔSEI (斎藤光正)
 SAITÔ TORAJIRÔ (斎藤寅次郎)
 SAKAGUCHI HIRONOBU (坂口博信)
 SAKAMOTO JUNJI (阪本順治)
 SAKAMOTO YÛSAKU (坂本雄作)

SAKANE TAZUKO (坂根田鶴子)
 SAKATA SHIGENORI (阪田重則)
 SANO KAZUHIRO (佐野和宏)
 SASABE KIYOSHI (佐々部清)
 SASAKI KEISUKE (佐々木啓祐)
 SASAKI YASUSHI (佐々木康)
 SATÔ HAJIME (佐藤肇)
 SATÔ HIROKI (佐藤博暉)
 SATÔ HISAYASU (佐藤寿保)
 SATÔ JUNYA (佐藤純弥, also 佐藤純彌)
 SATÔ SHIMAKO (佐藤嗣麻子)
 SATÔ TAKESHI (佐藤武)
 SATÔ TOSHIKI (サトウトシキ)
 SAWADA KENSAKU (澤田鎌作)
 SAWADA YUKIHIKO (沢田幸弘)
 SAWASHIMA TADASHI (沢島忠)
 SAWATA JUNSUKE (沢田順介)
 SEKIGAWA HIDEO (関川秀雄)
 SEKIGUCHI GEN (関口現)
 SEKIMOTO IKUO (関本郁夫)
 SEKIZAWA SHINICHI (関沢新一)
 SEO MITSUYO (瀬尾光世)
 SHIBA SEIKA (志波西果)
 SHIBATA GÔ (柴田剛)
 SHIBATA TSUNEKICHI (柴田常吉)
 SHIBUTANI NORIKO (渋谷のりこ)
 SHIBUYA MINORU (渋谷実)
 SHIMA KÔJI (島耕二)
 SHIMAZU YASUJIRÔ (島津保次郎)
 SHIMIZU TAKASHI (清水崇)
 SHIMOKAWA OTEN (下川凹夫)
 SHIMOMURA YÛJI (下村勇二)
 SHIMOYAMA TEN (下山天)
 SHIMURA TOSHIO (志村敏夫)
 SHINDÔ KAZE (新藤風)
 SHINDÔ TAKAE (新藤孝衛)
 SHINJÔ TAKU (新城卓)
 SHINKAI MAKOTO (新海誠)
 SHINOHARA MASAO (篠原征夫)
 SHINOHARA TETSUO (篠原哲雄)
 SHINOZAKI MAKOTO (篠崎誠)

SHIOTA AKIHIKO (塩田明彦)
SHIRAKAWA DAISAKU (白川大作)
SÔDA KAZUHIRO (想田和弘)
SODE YUKIKO (岨手由貴子)
SÔMAI SHINJI (相米慎二)
SONE CHIHARU (曾根千晴)
SONE CHÛSEI (曾根中生)
SONO SHION (園子温)
SORI FUMIHIKO (曾利文彦)
SUGIE TOSHIO (杉江敏男)
SUGIYAMA TAKU (杉山卓)
SUÔ MASAYUKI (周防正行)
SUWA NOBUHIRO (諏訪敦彦)
SUZUKI HIKARU (鈴木光)
SUZUKI MASAYUKI (鈴木雅之)
SUZUKI NORIFUMI (鈴木則文)
SUZUKI SEITARÔ (鈴木清太郎). *See dictionary entry for SUZUKI SEIJUN.*
SUZUKI SHIGEYOSHI (鈴木重吉)
SUZUKI YOSHITAKE (鈴木良武)
TAGUCHI SATOSHI (田口哲)
TAIRA YOSHITSUGU (平秦陣)
TAIZUMI YASUNAO (田泉保直)
TAJIRI YÛJI (田尻裕司)
TAKABAYASHI YÔICHI (高林陽一)
TAKAHASHI BANMEI (高橋伴明)
TAKAKAWA CHISUI (瀧川治水)
TAKAMI SADAЕ (高見定衛)
TAKAYAMA HIDEKI (高山秀樹)
TAKEUCHI SUGURU (竹内スグル)
TAKEUCHI TETSURÔ (竹内鉄郎)
TAKITA YÔJIRÔ (滝田洋二郎)
TAKIZAWA EISUKE (滝沢英輔)
TAKIZAWA TOSHIFUMI (滝沢敏文)
TAMA RUMI (珠瑠美)
TANADA YUKI (タナダユキ)
TANAKA EIZÔ (田中栄三)
TANAKA HIROYUKI (田中博行)
TANAKA NOBORU (田中登)
TANAKA SHIGEO (田中重雄)
TANAKA TOKUZÔ (田中徳三)
TANIGUCHI SENKICHI (谷口千吉)

TASAKA KATSUHIKO (田坂勝彦)
 TASAKA RYÛTA (田崎竜太)
 TASAKA TOMOTAKA (田坂具隆)
 TENGAN DAISUKE (天願大介)
 TEZUKA MAKOTO (手塚眞); a.k.a. MACOTO TEZKA.
 TEZUKA MASAOKI (手塚昌明)
 TOMIMOTO SÔKICHI (富本壮吉)
 TOMINAGA MAI (富永まい)
 TOMINO YOSHIYUKI (富野由悠季)
 TOMONO RÔ (伴野朗)
 TOYODA SHIRÔ (豊田四郎)
 TSUBOSHIMA TAKASHI (坪島孝)
 TSUCHIYA YUTAKA (土屋豊)
 TSUDA FUJIO (津田不二夫)
 TSUKAMOTO RENPEI (塚本連平)
 TSUKIYAMA KÔKICHI (築山光吉)
 TSURUMAKI KAZUYA (鶴巻和哉)
 TSURUTA NORIO (鶴田法男)
 TSUTSUMI YUKIHIKO (堤幸彦)
 UCHIDA KENJI (内田けんじ)
 UMEZAWA KAORU (梅沢薫)
 URAYAMA KIRIO (浦山桐郎)
 USHIHARA KIYOHICO (牛原虚彦)
 USHIHARA YÔICHI (牛原陽一)
 UENO SHINJI (上野真嗣)
 WAKASUGI MITSUO (若杉光夫)
 WATAI TAKEHARU (綿井健陽)
 WATANABE KUNIO (渡辺邦男)
 WATANABE MAMORU (渡辺護)
 WATANABE SHINTARÔ (渡辺新太郎)
 YABUKI KIMIRÔ (矢吹公郎)
 YABUSHITA TAIJI (藪下泰司)
 YAGUCHI SHINOBU (矢口史靖)
 YAGURA SHIGEO (矢倉茂雄)
 YAHAGI TOSHIHIKO (矢作俊彦)
 YAMADA TENGO (山田典吾)
 YAMAGA HIROYUKI (山賀博之)
 YAMAGUCHI TEPPEI (山口哲平)
 YAMAMOTO EIICHI (山本暎一)
 YAMAMOTO KAJIRÔ (山本嘉次郎)
 YAMAMOTO MICHIO (山本迪夫)

YAMAMOTO SANAE (山本早苗)
 YAMAMOTO SHINYA (山本晋也)
 YAMAMURA KÔJI (山村浩二)
 YAMAMURA SÔ (山村聡)
 YAMANE SHIGEYUKI (山根成之)
 YAMASHITA KÔSAKU (山下耕作)
 YAMASHITA SHÛICHI (山下秀一)
 YAMATOYA ATSUSHI (大和屋竺)
 YAMAZAKI TAKASHI (山崎貴)
 YANAGIMACHI MITSUO (柳町光男)
 YANG YONGHI (梁英姬)
 YASUDA KIMIYOSHI (安田公義)
 YOKOHAMA SATOKO (横浜聡子)
 YOKOI TAKESHI (横井健司)
 YOKOYAMA HIROTO (横山博人)
 YONEDA OKIHIRO (米田興弘)
 YOSHIDA KENJI (吉田憲二)
 YOSHIDA KIJÛ (吉田喜重); a.k.a. YOSHIDA YOSHISHIGE.
 YOSHIMURA KÔZABURÔ (吉村公三郎)
 YOSHIMURA MISAO (吉村操)
 YOSHINO JIRÔ (吉野二郎)
 YOSHINO KEIJI (吉野馨治)
 YOSHIYUKI YUMI (吉行由実, also written 吉行由美)
 YUASA MASAOKI (湯浅政明)
 YUASA NORIAKI (湯浅憲明)
 YUASA YOSHIO (湯浅浪男)
 YUGE SUSUMU (弓削進)
 YUGE TARÔ (弓削太郎)
 YUKISADA ISAO (行定勲)
 YUMOTO MAREO (湯本希生)
 YUYAMA KUNIIHIKO (湯山邦彦)
 ZEZE TAKAHISA (瀬々敬久)

PERFORMERS

AIDA MASUE (会田昌江). *See dictionary entry for* HARA SETSUKO.
 AIKAWA SHÔ (哀川翔)
 AIZOME KYÔKO (愛染恭子)
 AMACHI SHIGERU (天知茂)
 ANDÔ NOBORU (安藤昇)

ARASHI KANJÛRÔ (嵐寛寿郎)
 ASAOKA RURIKO (浅丘ルリ子)
 ATSUSHI KIYOSHI (渥美清)
 BANRI MASAYO (万里昌代)
 CHIBA SACHIKO (千葉早智子)
 CHIBA SHINICHI (千葉 真一); a.k.a. SONNY CHIBA.
 EGAWA UREO (江川宇礼雄)
 ENAMI KYÔKO (江波杏子)
 FUJI JUNKO (富司純子)
 FUJI TATSUYA (藤竜也)
 FUJII MITSUGU (藤井貢)
 FUJITA SUSUMU (藤田進)
 HANA HAJIME (ハナ肇)
 HANAI RANKO (花井蘭子)
 HANAYAGI HARUMI (花柳はるみ)
 HARADA YOSHIO (原田芳雄)
 HASHIMOTO KÔJI (橋本広司). *See dictionary entry for YAKUSHO KÔJI.*
 HAYAKAWA KINTARÔ (早川金太郎). *See dictionary entry for HAYAKAWA SESSUE.*
 HAYAMA MICHIKO (葉山三千子)
 HAYASHI CHÔJIRÔ (林長二郎). *See dictionary entry for HASEGAWA KAZUO.*
 HIDARI SACHIKO (左幸子)
 HIRATA AKIHIKO (平田昭彦)
 HIRAYAMA HIDEKO (平山秀子). *See dictionary entry for TAKAMINE HIDEKO.*
 ICHIKAWA HATAYA (市川幡谷)
 ICHIKAWA RAIZÔ (市川雷蔵)
 ICHIKAWA UTAEMON (市川右太衛門)
 IKE REIKO (池玲子)
 INAGAKI GORÔ (稲垣吾郎)
 INOUE MASAO (井上正夫)
 IRIE TAKAKO (入江たか子)
 ISSEI OGATA (イッセー尾形)
 IZUMI KYÔKO (泉京子)
 JÔ KENSABURÔ (城健三朗). *See WAKAYAMA TOMISABURÔ.*
 KAGAWA YUKIE (賀川雪絵)
 KANESHIRO TAKESHI (金城武)
 KANÔ JUNKO (叶順子)
 KATAOKA CHIEZÔ (片岡千恵蔵)
 KATAOKA NIZAEMON XI (片岡仁左衛門)

KATÔ MASAYA (加藤雅也)
 KATORI SHINGO (香取慎吾)
 KAYAMA YÛZÔ (加山雄三)
 KIMURA TAKUYA (木村拓哉)
 KIKUCHI YURIKO (菊地百合子). *See dictionary entry for KIKUCHI RINKO.*
 KISHIDA KYÔKO (岸田今日子)
 KÔCHI MOMOKO (河内桃子)
 KOSUGI ISAMU (小杉勇)
 KOYAMA AKIKO (小山明子)
 KUBO NAOKO (久保菜穂子)
 KURISHIMA SUMIKO (栗島すみ子)
 KUROKAWA YATARÔ (黒川弥太郎)
 KUSANAGI TSUYOSHI (稻垣吾郎)
 MAEDA KÔYÔ (前田耕陽)
 MAEDA MICHIKO (前田通子)
 MARUYAMA AKIHIRO (丸山明宏). *See MIWA AKIHIRO.*
 MATSUBARA CHIEKO (松原智恵子)
 MATSUDA EIKO (松田英子)
 MATSUDA SHUNSUI (松田春翠)
 MATSUDA YÛSAKU (松田優作)
 MATSUI SUISEI (松井翠声): Benshi/narrator.
 MATSUSHIMA NANAKO (松嶋菜々子)
 MATSUYAMA YÔKO (松山容子)
 MIHARA YÔKO (三原葉子)
 MIWA AKIHIRO (美輪明宏). *See MARUYAMA AKIHIRO.*
 MIYAGI MARIKO (宮城まり子)
 MIYAMOTO NOBUKO (宮本信子)
 MIYASHITA JUNKO (宮下順子)
 MIZUHARA YÛKI (水原ゆう紀)
 MIZUTANI YAEKO (水谷八重子)
 MOMOI KAORI (桃井かおり)
 MORI MASAYUKI (森雅之)
 MIURA TOMOKAZU (三浦友和)
 NAGASE MASATOSHI (永瀬正敏)
 NAKAGAWA YOSHIO (中川芳江)
 NAKAI MASAHIRO (中居正広)
 NAKAMURA KASEN (中村歌扇)
 NAKAMURA MAMI (中村麻美)
 NAKAMURA TAMAYO (中村玉緒)
 NAKATANI MIKI (中谷美紀)
 NEGISHI AKEMI (根岸明美)

NUGUMURA SACHIKO (額村幸子). *See dictionary entry for* HIDARI SACHIKO.

ODA GÔICHI (小田剛一). *See dictionary entry for* TAKAKURA KEN.

ODAGIRI JÔ (オダギリジョー, also written as 小田切譲)

OGAWA SETSUKO (小川節子)

OKADA EIJI (岡田英次)

OKADA TOKIHIKO (岡田時彦)

ÔKÔCHI DENJIRÔ (大河内伝次郎)

OKUDA EIJI (奥田瑛二)

OKUMURA MASARU (奥村勝). *See* WAKAYAMA TOMISABURÔ.

OKUMURA TOSHIO (奥村利夫). *See dictionary entry for* KATSU SHINTARÔ.

ÔTA MASAKO (太田雅子). *See dictionary entry for* KAJI MEIKO.

ÔTAKA YOSHIKO (大鷹淑子). *See dictionary entry for* YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO.

OTOWA NOBUKO (乙羽信子)

RI KÔRAN (李香蘭). *See dictionary entry for* YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO.

RYÛ CHISHÛ (笠智衆)

SAI SHÔKI (崔承喜); a.k.a. Choe Seung-hui.

SAITÔ TATSUO (斎藤達雄)

SANADA HIROYUKI (真田広之)

SAKAMOTO RYÛICHI (坂本龍一)

SATÔ TADANOBU (佐藤忠信). *See dictionary entry for* ASANO TADANOBU.

SAWAMURA HARUKO (沢村春子)

SAWATO MIDORI (澤登翠): Benshi

SERA MASANORI (世良公則)

SHIBASAKI KÔ (柴咲コウ)

SHIMURA TAKASHI (志村喬)

SHIRAKAWA KAZUKO (白川和子)

SHISHIDO JÔ (穴戸錠); a.k.a. Joe Shishido.

SUGAWARA BUNTA (菅原文太)

SUGIMOTO MIKI (杉本美樹)

SUGIMURA HARUKO (杉村春子)

SUZUKI DENMEI (鈴木伝明)

SUZUKI SUMIKO (鈴木澄子)

TAGUCHI TOMOROWO (田口トモロヲ)

TAKAHASHI HIDEKI (高橋英樹)

TAKARADA AKIRA (宝田明)

TAKENAKA NAOTO (竹中 直人)

TAKEUCHI RIKI (竹内力)

TAMURA DENKICHI (田村傳吉). *See dictionary entry for* BANDÔ TSU-MASABURÔ.

TAMURA MASAKAZU (田村正和)
 TAMURA RYÔ (田村亮)
 TAMURA TAKAHIRO (田村高広)
 TANBA TETSURÔ (丹波哲郎)
 TANI NAOMI (谷ナオミ)
 TERAJIMA SHINOBU (寺島のぶ)
 TERAJIMA SUSUMU (寺島進)
 TERASHIMA SHINOBU (寺島のぶ)
 TOKUGAWA MUSEI (徳川夢声): Benshi/narrator.
 TONNO EIJIRO (東野英治郎)
 TSUCHIYA ANNA (土屋アンナ)
 TSUKIGATA RYÛNOSUKE (月形龍之介)
 TSUKUBA HISAKO (筑波久子)
 TSURUTA KÔJI (鶴田浩二)
 UCHIDA YÛYA (内田裕也)
 UEHARA KEN (上原謙)
 UMEKI MIYOSHI (梅木美代志)
 WAKAO AYAKO (若尾文子)
 WAKAYAMA TOMISABURÔ (若山富三郎)
 WATANABE ERIKO (渡辺えり子)
 WATARI TETSUYA (渡哲也)
 YAGIRA YÛYA (柳楽優弥)
 YAKUSHIMARU HIROKO (薬師丸ひろ子)
 YAMADA ISUZU (山田五十鈴)
 YAMAGUCHI, SHIRLEY (YAMAGUCHI SHAARII, 山口シャーリー).
See dictionary entry for YAMAGUCHI YOSHIKO.
 YAMAMOTO FUJIKO (山本富士子)
 YAMAMURA SÔ (山村聡)
 YAMANE TOSHIKO (山根寿子)
 YANAGI YÛREI (柳ユーレイ)
 YANO MOTOKO (矢野元子). *See dictionary entry for KYÔ MACHIKO.*
 YASUDA MICHIO (安田道代)
 YOKOHAMA UNPEI (横山運平)
 YOROZUYA KINNOSUKE (萬屋錦之介)

OTHER FIGURES

ABE KÔBÔ (安部公房): Novelist.
 AKUTAGAWA RYÛNOSUKE (芥川龍之介): Novelist.
 AMAKASU MASAHIKO (甘粕正彦): Manchuria Film Association president.

- ARAI HARUHIKO (荒井晴彦): Screenwriter/critic.
 ARAI SABURÔ (新居三郎): Importer of Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope projector.
 ARAKI KEIKO (荒木啓子): PIA Film Festival director.
 ARAKI NOBUYOSHI (荒木経惟): Photographer.
 ARATO GENJIRÔ (荒戸源次郎): Producer.
 ASANO YOSHIZÔ (浅野良三): Founder of Taikatsu.
 ASHIZAWA ATSUKO (芦澤明子): Cinematographer.
 BEAT KIYOSHI (ビートキヨシ): Comedian, of Two Beats act, with Kitano Takeshi.
 CHIKAMATSU MONZAEMON (近松門左衛門): Edo-period Bunraku and Kabuki dramatist.
 FUJIOKA ASAKO (藤岡朝子): YIDFF programmer.
 FUJISAWA MAMORU (藤澤守). *See dictionary entry for HISAISHI JÔ.*
 FUJITA GORÔ (藤田五郎): Writer and former *yakuza*.
 GOTÔ KÔICHI (後藤功一): New Shintoho president.
 GURYÛ HACHIRÔ (具流八郎): Alias for Suzuki Seijun scriptwriting group.
 HANI MIO (羽仁未央): Writer and essayist, daughter of Hani Susumu.
 HANI MOTOKO (羽仁もと子): Feminist writer and grandmother of Hani Susumu.
 HANI GORÔ (羽仁五郎): Marxist historian and father of Hani Susumu.
 HARA MASATO (原正人): Producer.
 HAYASHI FUMIKO (林芙美子): Novelist.
 HIRAI TARÔ (平井太郎): Birthname of the writer Rampo Edogawa.
 HIRAOKA KIMITAKE (平岡公威). Birthname of the writer Mishima Yukio.
 HORI KYÛSAKU (堀久作): Nikkatsu president.
 HORI MASAHIRO (堀雅彦): Hori Kyûsaku's son and successor as Nikkatsu president.
 HOSHINO KÔJI (星野康二): Studio Ghibli president since 1 February 2008.
 ICHISE TAKASHIGE (一瀬隆重): J-Horror producer.
 IFUKUBE AKIRA (伊福部昭): Composer.
 INAHATA KATSUTARÔ (稲畑勝太郎): Japanese Lumière representative who introduced the Cinématographe to Japan.
 ISEKI TSUNEO (井関種雄): Art Theatre Guild president.
 IZUMI KYÔKA (泉鏡花): Novelist.
 KADOKAWA GENYOSHI (角川源義): Founder of Kadokawa Shoten Publishing.
 KADOKAWA TSUGUHIKO (角川歴彦): President of Kadokawa Shoten Publishing.
 KANEKO NIRÔ (兼子二郎): Real name of Beat Kiyoshi, comedian.
 KATAOKA NIZAEMON (片岡仁左衛門): Kabuki actor.
 KATAYAMA KYÔICHI (片山恭): Novelist.

KAWAI SHINYA (河井真也): Producer.
 KAWAI TOKUSABURÔ (河合徳三郎): Kawai Film Production Company president.
 KAWAKITA KASHIKO (川喜多かしこ): Wife of Kawakita Nagamasa.
 KAWAKITA KAZUKO (川喜多和子): Daughter of Kawakita Nagamasa.
 KAWANAKA NOBUHIRÔ (かわなかのぶひろ): Image Forum cofounder and experimental filmmaker.
 KAWAURA KENICHI (河浦謙一): President of Yoshizawa Company
 KIDO SHIRÔ (城戸四郎): Shochiku president.
 KIKUCHI KAN (菊池寛): Novelist and former Daiei president.
 KIKUCHI YÛHÔ (菊池幽芳): Novelist.
 KITÔ YUKIE (木藤幸江): Producer.
 KOBAYASHI ICHIZÔ (小林一三): Financial backer of P.C.L./Toho.
 KOBAYASHI KISABURÔ (小林喜三郎): Founder of Tenkatsu.
 KOBAYASHI SACHIKO (小林佐智子): Producer/screenwriter.
 KOIZUMI YAKUMO (小泉八雲): Adopted Japanese name of Lafcadio Hearn.
 KUZUI KINSHIRÔ (葛井欣士郎): Art Theatre Guild producer.
 MAKINO MITSUO (マキノ光雄): Toei head of production.
 MATSUDA MASAO (松田政男): Critic and screenwriter.
 MATSUMOTO LEIJI (松本零士): Manga artist.
 MINOURA JINGO (箕浦甚吾): Producer.
 MIYAMOTO KEN (宮本研): Screenwriter.
 MIYASAKA SUSUMU (宮坂進): Director's Company founder.
 MIYAZAWA KENJI (宮沢賢治): Writer/poet.
 MORI IWAO (森岩雄): Toho production head.
 MORI KATSUYUKI (森且行): Former SMAP member.
 MORI MASAYUKI (森昌行): Producer.
 MOTOGI SÔJIRO (本木莊二郎): Producer.
 MURAKI YOSHIRO (村木与四郎): Art designer.
 NAGATA MASAICHI (永田雅一): Daiei president.
 NAKAGAMI KENJI (中上健次): Novelist.
 NAKAMURA TSURUZÔ (中村鶴三). *See dictionary entry for* ONOE MATSUNOSUKE.
 NAKANO TERUYOSHI (中野昭慶): Special effects artist.
 NAKATANI SADAYORI (中谷貞頼): Nikkatsu president in 1930s.
 NATSUME SÔSEKI (夏目漱石): Novelist.
 NEGISHI KANICHI (根岸寛一): Head of production at Nikkatsu during 1930s.
 NODA KÔGO (野田高梧): Screenwriter.
 NOGAMI TERUYO (野上照代): Assistant to Kurosawa Akira.
 ÔE KENZABURÔ (大江健三郎): Nobel Prize-winning novelist.
 OKADA SHIGERU (岡田茂): Toei head of production.

ÔKAWA HIROSHI (大川博): Toei president.
 ÔKURA MITSUGI (大蔵貢): Original Shintohto producer.
 OKUYAMA KAZUYOSHI (奥山和由): Producer.
 ÔNO ATSUKO (大野敦子): Producer.
 ONO SEIKO (小野聖子): YIDFF programmer.
 ONO YÔKO (小野洋子): Artist, musician, and experimental filmmaker.
 ÔSAWA YOSHIO (大澤善夫): Founder of J.O. Studios.
 OTANI TAKEJIRÔ (大谷竹次郎): Shochiku founder.
 SASA GENJÛ (佐々元十): Prokino founding member.
 SASAKI MAMORU (佐々木守): Screenwriter.
 SASAKI SHIRÔ (佐々木史郎): ATG President.
 SAITÔ RYÔSUKE (斎藤良輔): Screenwriter.
 SATÔ KEIKO (佐藤啓子): President of Kokuei.
 SATÔ TADAO (佐藤忠男): Critic.
 SHIMOZAWA KAN (子母澤寛): Novelist and creator of Zatoichi.
 SHIRASAKA YOSHIO (白坂依志夫): Screenwriter.
 SHIRAI MATSUJIRÔ (白井松次郎): Shochiku founder.
 SHIRAI SHIGERU (白井茂): News cameraman.
 SHUNDÔ KÔJI (俊藤浩滋): Toei producer.
 SUGIYAMA KÔHEI (杉山公平): Cinematographer.
 SUZUKI KÔJI (鈴木光司): Novelist, author of *Ringu*.
 SUZUKI NORIKO (鈴木紀子): Screenwriter.
 SUZUKI TOSHIO (鈴木敏夫): Studio Ghibli president.
 TAGA SHÔSUKE (多賀祥介): Art Theatre Guild president.
 TAKAHASHI HIROSHI (高橋洋): Screenwriter.
 TAKAHASHI SHINJI (高橋信治): First importer of Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope peep-show device.
 TAKAMI KÔSHUN (高見広春): Author of *Battle Royale*.
 TAKEUCHI KASHIKO (竹内かしこ). *See* KAWAKITA KASHIKO
 TANAKA TOMOYUKI (田中友幸): Producer of *Godzilla* films.
 TANAKA YÔZÔ (田中陽造): Screenwriter.
 TOMIYAMA KATSUE (富山加津江): Founder of Image Forum.
 TOMIYAMA SHÔGO (富山省吾): Producer of *Godzilla Millennium* series.
 TOMIYAMA SHÔGO (富山省吾): Producer.
 UEMURA YASUJI (植村泰二): Founder of P.C.L.
 UMEYA SHÔKICHI (梅屋庄吉): Founder of the M. Pathé Company.
 WADA EMI (和田恵美): Costume designer.
 WADA NATTO (和田夏十): Screenwriter and wife of Ichikawa Kon.
 YAMAGUCHI TENRYÛ (山口天龍): Founder of Zenshō Kinema and brother of actor Ichikawa Utaemon.
 YAMAKAWA KICHITARÔ (山川吉太郎): Teikine founder.

YANAGISHIMA KATSUMI (柳島克己): Cinematographer.

YODA YOSHIKATA (依田義賢): Screenwriter.

YOKOTA EINSUKE (横田永之介/横田永之助): Founder of the Yokota Company and first Nikkatsu president.

YOKOTA MASUNOSUKE (横田万寿之助): Brother and business partner of YOKOTA EINSUKE.

Glossary

- AIDORU (アイドル):** From the English loan word “idol,” referring to mostly female pop stars, fashion models, actors, and TV personalities.
- ANMA (按摩):** A practitioner of Japanese massage. In the Edo period particularly, *amna* were itinerant and the profession was often seen as the reserve of blind people.
- AV (ADARUTO BIDEO, アダルトビデオ):** Pornographic hardcore video or DVD.
- BAKENEKO (化け猫):** Ghost cat stories. Also known as *kaibyô* (怪猫).
- BAKUMATSU-MONO (幕末物):** Stories set during the final years of the Tokugawa Shogunate, following the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry in 1853, marking the end of Japan’s isolationist foreign policy, and the Meiji Restoration of 1867, the beginning of the modern era.
- BUNGEI EIGA (文芸映画):** A genre of films based on literary classics.
- BUNKA EIGA (文化映画):** A form of educational documentary fostered during the 1930s with the aim of informing the public about local customs and traditions and Japan’s cultural heritage. Lit. “culture film.”
- BUNRAKU (文楽):** A form of traditional Japanese puppet theater founded in Osaka in 1684, with individual puppets controlled by several puppeteers.
- DOKYUMENTARÎ EIGA (ドキュメンタリー映画):** Documentary films.
- DÔGA (動画):** Early term for animation. Lit. “moving pictures.”
- DOKURITSU EIGA (独立映画):** Independent film. The term was first used in the mid-1920s in relation to the companies founded by individuals who left a major studio to form their own production outfits and was used in the 1960s to refer euphemistically to adult films.
- EIGA KOKUSAKU KENGI-AN (映画国策建議案):** The “Proposal for Bringing Cinema into Line with National Policy” bill, passed by the Diet on 4 March 1933.
- GEKIGA (劇画):** A style of *manga* with a more adult content and cinerealistic style that emerged in the late 1950s. The term, literally meaning “dramatic pictures,” was coined to distinguish the genre from the more general and younger-oriented *manga*.

GEKIHYÔ (劇評): Theatrical criticism journal established by Takechi Tetsuji. Lit. *Drama Criticism*.

GENDAI-GEKI (現代劇): Modern-day or contemporary dramas, as opposed to historical *jidai-geki*.

HÔGA (邦画): Japanese films, as opposed to foreign films, or *yôga*.

JIJI EIGA (時事映画): Current event films, documentary films covering current affairs.

JIKKEN EIGA (実験映画): Experimental film.

JIKKYÔ EIGA (実況): “Real condition” films, an early term for documentary.

JINGI (仁義): The *yakuza* code, comprised of the characters for “humanity” and “justice.”

JISSHA EIGA (実写映画): Actuality films.

JITSUROKU (実録): A prefix to many fiction film titles, especially during the 1970s, mainly, though not exclusively, within the *yakuza* genre, to denote either that the stories are based on real events, or possess a naturalistic, documentary-like shooting style. Lit. “true record.”

JÛDÔ (柔道): Japanese martial art.

JUN'AI (純愛): A genre of “pure love” films that was popular for a short time in the early 21st century, after the release of Yukisada Isao's *Crying Out Love, in the Center of the World* (*Sekai no chûshin de, ai o sakebu*) in 2004.

JUNSHI (殉死): Loyalty suicide.

KAGAKU EIGA (科学映画): Science films.

KAGE-E ANIMÊSHON (影絵アニメーション): Silhouette or shadow animation.

KATSUBEN (活弁): *Benshi* commentary.

KATSUDÔ SHASHIN (活動写真): An early term for films, before it became superseded by the word *eiga*. Lit. “moving photographs.”

KATSUDÔ SHASHIN KÔGYÔ TOSHIMARI KISOKU (活動写真興行取締規則): Motion Picture Entertainment Industry Control Regulations, the first laws directly concerned with the regulation of film issued by the Metropolitan Police in 1917.

KATSUDÔ SHASHIN (FIRUMU) KENETSU KIROKU (活動写真フィルム検閲規則公): Motion Pictures (Film) Censorship Regulations, issued in 1925 by the Home Ministry; the first national law on film censorship.

KEIHIN ANPO KYÔTÔ (京浜安保共闘): The Keihin Anti Security Treaty Joint Struggle, a left-wing radical organization opposed to American military presence in Japan.

KINBAKU (緊縛): A form of sexual bondage specific to Japan, with the emphasis on performance. *Kinbaku*, literally “tight binding,” has been a frequent component of pink cinema.

KIRI-GAMI ANIMÊSHON (切り紙アニメーション): Cut-out or collage animation.

KIROKU EIGA (記録映画): Real-life record films. Another term for documentary films.

KOKKA SÔDÔIN-HÔ (国家総動員法): The National Mobilization Law, legislated on 24 March 1938 to deal with the wartime situation.

KOKUSAKU EIGA (国策映画): Wartime “national policy” films.

MAEURI (前売り): Advance block-booking sales system prevalent in the 1980s, wherein studios would presell tickets regardless of the films’ quality, often in conjunction with corporate partners.

MANGA (漫画): Japanese comic books or graphic novels. The term literally means frivolous, meandering, or diverting pictures. *See also* GEKIGA.

MANGA EIGA (漫画映画): Alternate term for animation.

MATATABI-MONO (股旅物): Stories featuring wandering gamblers, a precursor to the *yakuza* genre.

MISEMONO (見せ物): Sideshow attractions. In the early years, this was the status of cinema, a novelty usually shown in non-purpose-built venues as an adjunct to vaudeville or variety acts.

MUKOKUSEKI AKUSHON (無国籍アクション): Meaning “borderless action films,” a term used to refer to Nikkatsu’s action films during the late 1950s and 1960s, whose fictional worlds were not specifically Japanese, but drew from foreign cinematic sources.

MUSEI EIGA (無声映画): Silent film.

NIKUTAI-HA JOYÛ (肉体派女優): Glamorous young actresses employed by the various studios in the 1950s whose appearances signified a more overtly sexual allure to their films. Lit. “Flesh Group Actresses.”

NINKYÔ EIGA (任侠映画): A subgenre of *yakuza* films pioneered by Toei. Lit. “chivalry film.”

NYÛSU EIGA (ニュース映画): News films.

ÔGON JIDAI (黄金時代): The “Golden Age” of Japanese cinema, a term that was originally used to refer to the 1930s, although a second Golden Age was identified in the 1950s, with the increased international interest in the nation’s films.

ONNAGATA (女形): *See* OYAMA.

ONRYÔ (怨霊): A vengeful ghost.

OTAKU (おたく): Deriving from an honorific second-person pronoun meaning “your house” or “your family,” it refers to anyone with an unhealthy, obsessive interest in specialist fields, particularly *anime*, *manga*, toys, or video games. Initially used in a pejorative sense, the term has been reclaimed by such fans as a badge of honor.

OYABUN (親分): *Yakuza* gang boss.

OYAMA (女形): Male performers who played female roles in early Japanese film until the early 1920s, when they were replaced by actresses, a theatrical tradition deriving from Kabuki theater. The word *onnagata*, a direct reading of the two characters comprising the word, which mean “woman” and “shape, form, or style,” is also used.

SEIJIN EIGA (成人映画): Adult films rated R-18 by Eirin.

SEISHUN EIGA (青春映画): Youth film, aimed at teenage or college age audiences.

SENKI EIGA (戦記映画): Battle record films.

SHICHIFUKUJIN (七福神): Lit. “Seven Gods of Fortune” or “Seven Lucky Gods,” the term refers collectively to the seven directors from the pink film industry who emerged after the Shitennô in the late 1990s.

SHISHOMIN-GEKI (市庶民劇): An alternative name for the *shomin-geki* genre.

SHITENNÔ (四天皇): The “Four Devils” or “Four Heavenly Gods” of the pink film who emerged in the early 1990s.

SÛTSUMÊSHON (スーツメーション): Refers to the *tokusatsu* (“special effects”) technique used in *kaijû eiga* such as *Godzilla* of having actors dressed in monster suits play the giant monsters.

YONKI NO KAI (四騎の会): Short-lived production group established in 1969 by Ichikawa Kon, Kinoshita Keisuke, Kobayashi Masaki, and Kurosawa Akira. The name translates as the “Four Knights Group.”

YÔGA (洋画): Foreign films, as opposed to *hôga*, or domestically produced films.

ZENGAKUREN (全学連): The All-Japan Federation of Student’s Self-Governing Associations, a national student body involved in many of the left-wing protests from the 1950s onward. An abbreviation of ZEN NIHON GAKUSEI JICHIKAI SÔRENGÔ (全日本学生自治会総連合).

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INTRODUCTION

This bibliography is primarily concerned with giving as comprehensive a list of English-language resources on Japanese cinema as possible. Space constraints, as much as the ephemeral nature of the Internet, regrettably weigh against the inclusion of articles, reviews, and interviews published exclusively online, although a number of specialist websites are listed in a separate section at the end. Nor has it been possible to include the large number of contextualizing essays and interviews that have appeared in the liner notes of DVD releases or festival catalogs, although I have endeavored to include publications by film festivals that have dedicated retrospectives to specific areas of Japanese cinema. A selection of Japanese sources (both book publications and periodicals) of particular significance or utility appears at the end, followed by other important studies in non-English languages. Note that for the sake of simplicity, the names of Japanese authors are indexed according to Western naming conventions and without macrons throughout the bibliography (e.g., Iwasaki, Akira; Oshima, Nagisa).

As even a cursory look at the bibliography reveals, there has been a wealth of material written on Japanese cinema, with a particular proliferation since the new millennium, and publications such as Alexander Jacoby's *A Critical Handbook of Japanese Film Directors: From the Silent Era to the Present Day* (2008) filling in many of the gaps left by previous reference guides about Japanese filmmakers. This recent explosion in interest can be attributed to several factors: the new ease of accessibility to information brought about by

the Internet, the rise in film availability due to DVD, the increasing number of university film departments and courses dedicated to Asian and film studies, and the large number of film festivals that have held special programs and retrospectives focused on Japanese cinema.

It is clear from the size and scope of the bibliography that the focus among foreign observers has been very much on individual directors and genres, and core areas still remain that require further investigation, including more detailed histories of the studios and the individuals working in them; economic practices in the industry; the role technological advances have played in influencing the form, content, and audiences of the resulting products; and the historical processes of overseas distribution and exhibition. Within the broad field of film studies in general, academic researchers and popular writers alike have identified a need for a more interdisciplinary and intercultural approach, with an increased awareness of the difficulties in defining the concept of a “national cinema” in the 21st century and the problematic area of separating cinema as an art form from its primary commercial function. It is inevitable that such an approach will see continuing advances being made in the field of Japanese film studies.

The recent wave of overseas interest stands in stark contrast to the first 50 or so years of Japanese cinema’s history. This can be attributed to the small number of films that received any significant distribution in English-speaking countries. Those few titles that did, such as Kinugasa Teinosuke’s *Crossroads* (*Jujirô*, 1928), released in the United States as *Slums of Tokyo* in 1930, and Naruse Mikio’s *Wife, Be Like a Rose* (*Tsuma yo bara no yô ni*, 1935), which opened in New York in 1937 under the title *Kimiko*, were only covered in stand-alone reviews in newspapers and trade journals such as the *New York Times* and *Variety*. Although reviews of individual films are not generally included in the bibliography, for the sake of historical importance, references to the *Variety* coverage of such early titles, as well as fuller analyses of other films in the “Studies of Particular Films” section, have been included.

Articles and books published during or referring to the early period are listed in the “Silent Era” section of the bibliography. The arrival of cinema in Japan has been written about in some depth, in articles by academics including Peter High (“The Dawn of Cinema in Japan”; “Umeya Shokichi: The Revolutionist as Impresario”) and the Japanese scholars Iwamoto Kenji (“From Rensageki to Kinodrama”) and Komatsu Hiroshi (“The Lumiere Cinematographe and the Production of the Cinema in Japan in the Earliest Period”). An aspect of particular interest in the cinema of this period has been the *benshi* film narrators. The Japan-based Friends of Silent Films Association has published an accessible account of the most famous practitioners of this art form, *The Benshi—Japanese Silent Film Narrators* (2001), and other

short books from the organization include those focusing on the stars and the films of the era. There are also more scholarly studies of the phenomenon, including articles by Joseph Anderson (“Spoken Silents in the Japanese Cinema, Essay on the Necessity of Katsuben”) and Jeffrey Dym (“Benshi and the Introduction of Motion Pictures to Japan”).

Audience viewing practices, the emergence of film publications, and discourses about cinema have been written about by a number of scholars, in particular Aaron Gerow and Joanne Bernardi, whose *Writing in Light: The Silent Scenario and the Japanese Pure Film Movement* (2001) details the context of the Pure Film Movement, while Thomas LaMarre’s *Shadows on the Screen: Tanizaki Jun’ichiro on Cinema & “Oriental” Aesthetics* (2005) looks at the involvement of the celebrated literary figure Tanizaki Junichirō in the early stages of the industry. The emergence of contemporary *gendai-geki* genres and depictions of modern life, particularly those of the company Shochiku in the 1920s, has been covered in depth by Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano in several articles and more fully in her book, *Nippon Modern: Japanese Cinema of the 1920s and 1930s* (2008).

Film culture during Japan’s period of colonial expansion up to and including the Pacific War is detailed in a number of books written more recently, including Michael Baskett’s *The Attractive Empire: Transnational Film Culture in Imperial Japan* (2008), of particular interest with regard to Japanese production and distribution practices in its Asian colonies, and Peter High’s *The Imperial Screen: Japanese Film Culture in the Fifteen Years’ War, 1931–45* (2003), an exhaustive account of the films, the studios, and the individuals who worked in them during wartime. The anthology of essays contained in *The Japan/America Film Wars: WWII Propaganda and Its Cultural Contents*, edited by Abé Mark Nornes and Yukio Fukushima, also provides a valuable source of contextual information, while Nornes covers the same period in *Japanese Documentary Film: The Meiji Era Through Hiroshima* (2003). Darrell William Davis, in *Picturing Japaneseness: Monumental Style, National Identity, Japanese Film*, examines the stylistic and thematic differences that manifested themselves in the films produced between 1936 and 1941, the canonization of nativist subject matter and aesthetics fostered as a reaction to Western cinema, which he terms the Monumental Style, while Kyoko Hirano’s *Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo: Japanese Cinema Under the American Occupation, 1945–1952* (1992) provides a detailed account of the industry in the postwar period. Such sources are covered in the “War and Film” section of the bibliography, except for Hirano’s book, which is listed under the “Censorship” section.

It was not until 1959 that Joseph Anderson and Donald Richie’s *The Japanese Film: Art and Industry* appeared, with a revised and expanded edition

published in 1982. It is still seen as the definitive account of the industry's history. This volume was the first work on Japanese cinema in the English language and marked a turning point in its overseas appreciation and understanding, with increased exposure at international film festivals that saw new developments more or less written about as and when they occurred. Based in Tokyo, Richie emerged as the main authority on Japanese film in the English language, with books on the directors Kurosawa Akira and Ozu Yasujiro and numerous articles published from the late 1950s onward.

Later prominent overviews of the field include books by Joan Mellen (*Voices from the Japanese Cinema*, 1975; *The Waves at Genji's Door: Japan Through its Cinema*, 1976), Audie Bock (*Japanese Film Directors*, 1978), and Keiko McDonald (*Cinema East: A Critical Study of Major Japanese Films*, 1983). Sato Tadao was the only Japanese critic whose work was translated into English at the time, with *Currents in Japanese Cinema: Essays* (1982), and to this day translations of Japanese writers are regrettably few. A number of analytical formalist studies appeared starting in the late 1970s, with key titles including Noël Burch's *To the Distant Observer: Form and Meaning in the Japanese Cinema* (1979), which attempted to explain Japanese cinema's deviations from the Hollywood norms of filmmaking with redress to its culture and artistic traditions, and David Bordwell's *Ozu and the Poetics of Cinema* (1988).

Following titles such as David Desser's *Eros plus Massacre: An Introduction to the Japanese New Wave Cinema* (1988), more attention has been paid to broader trends in the industry and the social, economic, or political circumstances in which films have been produced. A new generation of writers, including Eric Cazdyn, Aaron Gerow, Peter High, Kyoko Hirano, Thomas LaMarre, and Abé Mark Nornes, emerged over the next decade, all with their specific spheres of interest, and scholarship moved its focus from textual analysis and *auteur* studies to issues of domestic reception, industry trends and practices, and how cinema was tied into the country's broader cultural and political history. Issues such as gender and the experiences of different ethnic groups in Japan also fell under the critical spotlight. Publications on films and filmmakers that specifically deal with these areas (for example, articles on Isao Yukisada's *zainichi* romance *Go!* or the actresses turned directors, Tanaka Kinuyo and Hidari Sachiko) are included in the relevant biography sections "Homosexuality and Film," "Women Filmmakers and Women in Film," and "Ethnicity and Racial Identity," rather than under "Studies of Particular Films" or "Studies of Particular Filmmakers."

With much of the writing on Japanese cinema primarily concerned with the classical and New Wave periods, until the past decade little attention has been given to Japanese cinema from the late 1970s onward, the belief espoused by

many of the field's main authorities from this period being that the industry was in terminal decline. By the time of the rekindling of interest at the turn of the millennium, the only books to give broad overviews of the films and directors that appeared in the 1990s were Mark Schilling's *Contemporary Japanese Film* (1999) and Tom Mes and Jasper Sharp's *The Midnight Eye Guide to New Japanese Film* (2004), and the only filmmaker to receive significant attention in the West was Kitano Takeshi. The situation seems to be better now, with directors such as Kore'eda Hirokazu, Kurosawa Kiyoshi, and Miike Takashi having a far wider prominence overseas than they would have had a decade or so earlier, and the number of articles or books devoted to contemporary Japanese films and filmmakers has grown accordingly.

The significant output of the Japanese animation industry has also attracted considerable attention from foreign writers, resulting in numerous books and articles, which are included in the "Animation" section. Jonathan Clements and Helen McCarthy's *The Anime Encyclopedia: A Guide to Japanese Animation Since 1917* (2001; rev. ed., 2007) provides an exhaustive introduction to the large number of works that comprise this field, while Susan Napier has also written heavily on the subject, for example, *Anime from "Akira" to "Howl's Moving Castle"* (2005). Thomas LaMarre's *The Anime Machine: A Media Theory of Animation* (2009) provides the most theoretical approach, analyzing the relationship between the style of *anime* and the technology used to produce it. Since 2006, the field has had its own academic journal, *Mechademia*, and there are also a large number of studies on individual animators or studios.

Japanese cinema has also been approached by writers through its genres. The most endemically Japanese of these, the *jidai-geki* period film, was first detailed extensively in Alain Silver's *The Samurai Film* (1977; rev ed., 2005), while Sybil Thornton's *The Japanese Period Film: A Critical Analysis* (2007) provides an analysis of its historical and literary foundations. Mark Schilling has written extensively on the *yakuza* film, in both *The Yakuza Movie Book: A Guide to Japanese Gangster Films* (2003) and *No Borders, No Limits: Nikkatsu Action Cinema*. (2007), which also provides invaluable information on the activities of Nikkatsu studio during the late 1950s and 1960s.

Writers focusing on Japanese fantasy cinema, particularly the *kaijū eiga* genre represented by the *Godzilla* series, include August Ragone, in his study of the special effects master, *Eiji Tsuburaya: Master of Monsters: Defending the Earth with Ultraman and Godzilla* (2007); Stuart Galbraith IV, in books including *Japanese Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films* (1994) and *The Toho Studios Story: A History and Complete Filmography* (2008); and Thomas Weisser, who has also written about erotic cinema. Jasper Sharp's *Behind the Pink Curtain: The Complete History of Japanese Sex Cinema*

(2008) also focuses on the erotic genres of the pink film and Nikkatsu's Roman Porno within the broader context of the Japanese industry. Several academic studies of the Japanese horror film have been published since the turn of the century, including the *Japanese Horror Cinema* anthology (2005), edited by Jay McRoy, and Colette Balmain's *Introduction to Japanese Horror Film* (2008).

Outside the English language, the "Selected Japanese Sources" section contains a list of works deemed useful for researchers, and titles of the Japanese-language books and periodicals mentioned in the dictionary entries are also provided. Japan boasts a long tradition of writing about its cinema. It was not long after the country's involvement in motion picture production that a host of related publications containing star profiles, synopses, stills, and industry punditry emerged in the country. The earliest film magazine, *Katsudô shashinkai* (lit. *Motion Picture World*, though the cover also presented the English-text title *The Cinematograph*)[sic] was published by Yoshizawa Company between June 1909 and 1912. The first professional film journalist is held to be Yoshiyama Kokko (1881–1944), whose weekly film reviews appeared in the newspaper *Miyako Shinbun* from late July 1911. The earliest publications produced independently of the industry appeared in 1913—*A Companion to Moving Pictures* (*Katsudô no tomo*, only four issues believed published until June 1913) and *Film Record* (retitled *Kinema Record* the same year and published until 1917)—both established by movie fans who were mainly students, including Kaeriyama Norimasa, who also wrote Japan's first technical handbook for cinema, *The Production and Photography of Moving Pictures* (*Katsudô shashingeki no sôzaku to satsuei hô*, 1917).

Numerous other books and magazines emerged during the decade and beyond, focusing on both imported Western films and domestic productions. The most noteworthy is *Kinema Junpô*, launched in July 1919 and continuing to this day, which lays claim to the distinction of the longest-running specialist film magazine anywhere in the world (notwithstanding a hiatus in publication between 1941 and 1946 due to the war), and as such provides an important resource for researchers. Other crucial publications are *Eiga nenkan* (*Film Yearbook*, 1950–), previously known as *Eiga geinô nenkan* (*Film and Entertainment Yearbook*, 1947–1949), which provides detailed records of releases and industry developments in a given year, and the comprehensive series of volumes published by *Kinema Junpô* in the late 1990s as part of the *Nihon eiga jinmei jiten* (*Illustrated Who's Who of Japanese Cinema*) series, which contain biographical details of actors, actresses, directors, and other industry figures, and its two volumes, *Nihon eiga sakuin jiten: Senzen hen* (*Complete Dictionary of Prewar Japanese Movies*) and *Nihon eiga sakuin jiten: Sengo hen* (*Complete Dictionary of Postwar Japanese Movies to 1988 December*).

Since 1955, the Japanese organization UNIJAPAN, also known as the Japan Association for International Promotion of the Moving Image, has also played a crucial role in providing information on industry statistics and selected titles in its annual bilingual English-Japanese *Japanese Film* publications.

It is finally worth drawing attention to the fact that Japanese cinema has received considerable attention in other non-English languages from writers such as Max Tessier, Roberta Novielli, Janine Hansen, and Mariann Lewinsky, and has been particularly well-covered by French magazines such as *Cahiers du Cinema* and *Positif*. Due to limitations of space, it is not possible to list such articles, but in recognition of this research, a brief list is included in the “Selected Non-English Sources” section.

The key issue for the researcher is knowing what is out there and where to get access to the full range of such resources in whatever language. As well as this bibliography, the serious scholar is recommended to refer to Abé Mark Nornes and Aaron Gerow’s invaluable *Research Guide to Japanese Film Studies* (2009).

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Continuum: <http://www.mcc.murdoch.edu.au/ReadingRoom/continuum2.html>
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Jump Cut: <http://www.ejumpcut.org/>
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Screening the Past: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screeningthepast/>
Senses of Cinema: <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/>
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